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# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

January 2007 Volume 16 Number 1


## President's Message

Since this is the time of year when we think of resolutions to improve ourselves or our lives, I want to share an article that I have just read.

For years I have felt that I should be better organized. I have clipped articles from newspapers and magazines that interested me and collected genealogical records and photographs that have ended up in what I call "terminal piles." (The records and photos of my family have been properly filed.) I felt somewhat better after I heard Helen Leary, the genealogist who co-authored the "bible" for research in North Carolina, say that she no longer has to vacuum because of her piles of records.

Now a book has been published with the premise that persons with moderate disorganization are probably more efficient, resilient, creative and in general more effective than someone who is highly organized. One of the authors is a professor of management at Columbia University and the other is a business and science journalist. They say that messiness and disorder save people time and make them more efficient. They found that messy people tend to put things in "surprisingly sophisticated" piles that they can easily access.

So if you, like me, have your "sophisticated" piles of records, etc., take heart that your "mess" has been vindicated. We just need to keep it from looking like we are slobs.

This does not excuse us from getting our family research into a format that can be shared with others and deposited with a library where other researchers can benefit from our accumulated records.

*Sue Powell*

## JANUARY 30TH MEETING
### Wilson County Public Library 7:00 PM

We learned in school about the "New World" being viewed as a place to come to get away from religious persecution. Our textbooks told us about the Puritans who settled in Massachusetts and the Quakers who settled in Pennsylvania. Christopher Lawne brought a group of Puritans to Virginia in 1619, a year before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

Many of the early settlers to what is now Wilson County were Primitive Baptist (Puritan) and Quakers. Their origins came out of the religious struggles of the earlier settlers.

Betty McCain, former Secretary of Cultural Resources for North Carolina, will speak to us at our January meeting about "Religious Immigration to North Carolina." This will be an opportunity to learn how these immigrants became a part of our early ancestry. Those who have heard Mrs. McCain know that she is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. Make your plans to join us on the 30th for an informative presentation of one of the driving forces behind the early settlers to our state.

We will meet in the Assembly Room and hope to see you there!

**It is time to renew to keep your membership active and continue to receive *Trees of Wilson.***

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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we begin a new series of letters, those of the Woodard family written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees.*

**Wilson Post Office June 3, 1863**

To Gray & George Woodard:

I have not written to you in some time. As Mary is writing so often it Seems useless for me to write much. This leaves us all in moderate health or nearly So. I am not well but keep up about. Your mother continues down yet and gets no better but worse. It Seems that She can't Stand her afflictions much longer, but how long I don't know. I can't but expect her to go off Steady. She Seems to be the most resigned and takes everything the most patiently of anyone I ever Saw.

Your folks are probably as when Mary wrote last. Mary Edwards & children [are] as common or nearly So. Stancil & family are not well but up about. The rest of [the] connections are [as] likely as common. We are very dry now. Everything looks late and backward. I am very sorry that George is blind. I Should think they would discharge him and let him come home, but the old Boy will prompt people as long as he is allowed to do it to keep them from doing right, and there has never been a time when his works have been carried on more than now, to be sure. I wish very much George could be allowed to come home and could come with Jesse Pitman if he goes and carries this letter to you as I expect. He will Start tomorrow.

Corn is $14 pr barrel, lard & bacon $1

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

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*(Woodard Letters, Continued from page 1)*


pr lb, butter $1.50 pr lb, honey $1 per lb in the comb, and what is it is clean beyond my knowings. The news of Soldiers deserting and running away from the war is news. I must come to a close by Saying I remain your affectionate Father until death &C:

Ja$^{s}$. B. WOODARD

Camp near Franklin Depot March 6/63

Dear Father,

I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that myself & George are both tolerable well at this time and truly hope these few lines may go safe to hand & find you all well & enjoying the best of God's blessings. Father, I have nothing of interest to write you; only that we have very bad weather. We had a sprinkle of snow last night and it is quite sloppy underfoot now & pretty cool.

Father, I want you to list my land and pay the tax also & Mary can pay you. Father, I can tell you that we are faring but very common. We get only one ¼ of a pound of meat a day and 1 pound of flour. The most of them are cursing & swearing & say if it gets any worse that they will leave & go home & die at home. It is talked that the rations will be cut still shorter yet. Everything is high here. Corn is $40 dollars a barrel and [we] cannot get much at that. Potatoes [are] from eight to 10 dollars a bushel & pease the same & everything else in proportion.

Mr. Arquer says tell you that he will see you next week. Willis Watson wants to know if the old man London has quit selling fat mutton yet or not. John Moore sends his best respects to you all. George says if this war ever stops and he is spared to go home, that he can make out any way and not find fault. I would be glad to see you all, but I know not whether I ever will again or not, but my prayer to God is if we never more meet in this world again that we may meet in that which is to come where sorrow and pain will be felt and feared no more.

Father, I want you to write me soon and let me know all the news in general. I must close for it is getting dark. Please excuse bad writing and spelling. Nothing more. I still remain your affectionate son until death.

GRAY W. W[oodard].

Scenes from the November Annual, Show and Tell, and Social Meeting
Top: Carroll Arthur, Jane Poston, Jerry Stancil, Jan Arthur
Lower left: Grace Turner, Lena Smith, Sarah Kirby
Lower right: Carroll Arthur, Frances Roberson

## ANN ELIZA ARMSTRONG
### Contributed by Tommy Colbert

In regards to the article "Benjamin Wilkinson, JP, Certification," on page 65 in the June issue of Trees, I have the notes attached on Ann Eliza Armstrong.

Ann and Redding Worsley were probably the couple in the Hinds County, Mississippi, 1850 census. Redding had a brother who was a few years older.

1850 CENSUS, HINDS CO., MISSISSIPPI, POST OFFICE, DWELLING #1460 FAMILY #1460

| Name | Age | Sex | Occupation | Born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Worsley | 40 | M | mechanic | NC |
| Mary | 25 | F | | SC |
| LaFayette | 11 | M | | AL |
| Sarah | 9 | F | | AL |
| Laura | 7 | F | | (MI) |
| Joseph | 5 | M | | (MI) |
| James | 2 | M | | (MI) |
| Redding | 35 | M | merchant | NC |
| Ann | 35 | F | | NC |
| Martha A | 6 | F | | NC |
| Addline | 4 | F | | NC |
| McWillie | 2 | M | | AL |

1860 CENSUS, EDGECOMBE CO., NC POST OFFICE TARBORO, JUNE, PAGE 449, DWELLING #542, FAMILY #545

| Name | Age | Sex | Occupation | Real Estate | Personal Property |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| William Worsley | 71 | M | farm | $10000 | $10000 |
| Elizabeth | 68 | F | | | |
| Reddin Worsley | 44 | M | | | |
| Martha A. | 16 | F | | | |
| Mary E? | 25 | F | | | |
| Louisa | 27 | F | | | |
| Will Worsley | 35 | M | | | |

1860 CENSUS, EDGECOMBE COUNTY, N. C., TARBORO, PAGE 441, DWELLING #472, FAMILY #442

| Name | Age | Sex | Occupation | Real Estate | Personal Property |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gray Armstrong | 75 | M | farmer | $34000 | $70000 |
| William H.H. | 18 | M | | | |
| Annaliza Worsley | 35 | F | | | |
| Aquitta Worsley | 12 | F | | | |

Slaves, Male- 28 from 1 yr -50 yrs page 72
Female 26 from 1 yr -50 yrs

1870 CENSUS, WAKE COUNTY, N. C., POST OFFICE, PAGE 252, DWELLING, FAMILY—N. C. INSANE ASYLUM

| Name | Age | Sex | Place Person Born |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ann Worsley | 50 | F | NC |

Estate records for Gray Armstrong include an agreement with Carter Pope to care for Gray's daughter, Ann Eliza. She was called Carter's mother in law. Carter had married Martha Ann Worsley, daughter of Redding Worsley. Martha Ann is also mentioned in the will of Redding.

Article of agreement made and entered into this 30th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty six between Gray Armstrong of the one part and Carter Pope of the other part both of the County of Edgecombe and State of North Carolina. Witnesseth that the said on his part promises and agrees to support and maintain and constantly provide suitable food clothing, lodging and proper attention to Ann Eliza Worsley, a lunatic the daughter of the said Gray Armstrong and the mother in law of the said Carter Pope, for and during the time of the natural life of the said Ann Eliza Worsley and the said Gray Armstrong on his part agrees therefore to pay to the said Carter Pope the sum of one hundred and seventy five dollars per annum, payable at the termination of each year, so long as the Gray Armstrong shall live and in addition thereto, the said Gray Armstrong promises and agrees to give to the said Carter Pope one ninth part of his estate at his death the said Carter Pope accounting for whatever the said Gray may pay him in pursuance of this agreement before the death of the said Gray according to the provisions of the last will and testament of the said Gray this day made and published and which he stipulates, shall be irrevocable. In witness whereof the said parties both hereunto subscribe their names and affixed their seals in duplicate.

witness K.C. Pope, T.H. Griffin. Signed Gray Armstrong (mark)

Edgecombe County Loose Estate Records, NC State Archives C.R. 037.508.3, 3-10-00

**Reddin Worsley Will**

Being of sound mind and memory do make this my last will in manner and form as follows.

1- I give and bequeath to my sister, Mary E. Worsley two hundred dollars.

2- I give and bequeath to my sister Eathaline Worsley Worsley two hundred dollars.

3- I give and bequeath to my (neace Lasos) Mc. D. Proctor two hundred dollars.

4- I leave the rest and residue of my estate as a standing amount to Martha A. Pope the anual interest to her use yearly and principle as a standing amount.

I request S.L. Spicer or Henry G. Worsley to carry out the above will; this 1st day of September 1884.

wit. M.W. Proctor, W.E. Bradley Signed Redding Worsley

Will proved by the oath of S.L. Spicer who stated that he knew Reddin Worsley very well and lived within a quarter mile of him. Redding had come to his (Spicer's) house and ask him to write out his will, which he did. Redding was in bad health and almost blind. Sometimes he was so nervous and tremblous that he could not write. Spicer had known Redding all of his life and he knew he was of good mind and memory when he wrote the will.

Affidavit signed 8 Feb 1888 signed S.L. Spicer

*(continued on page 11)*

# THE WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS OF WILSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

## Edited by Hugh Buckner Johnston

[Editor's note: Mr. Johnston transcribed these letters, prepared an introduction, bound the collection, and placed a copy in the Wilson County Public Library. The first letter is included in this issue of Trees, and the other letters will be included in future issues.]

## Introduction

The Woodard collection of Civil War letters consists of twenty items: one letter written by James Bullock Woodard to two of his sons at the Virginia front, one letter written to his father by Gray Wilson Woodard; two letters written by John Bunyan Woodard to his father before the death of the latter, and two written afterward to his sister Mrs. Mary Jane "Mollie" Edwards; two letters written by George Washington Woodard to his sister Mary J. Edwards, five letters to his brother John B. Woodard, one letter to his brother-in-law Colonel William Woodard Batts (married to Margaret Peelle Woodard), one letter to the last-named sister; and five letters pertaining to the death and personal effects of George W. Woodard that were received by Colonel Batts.

The participation of the Woodard family of Wilson County in the Civil War exemplified the tragedy that came to so many families of Southern Planters in both human and financial areas. James B. Woodard was born on September 4, 1793, in Edgecombe (now Wilson) County, and had accumulated 710 acres of land and seventeen slaves by the time of his death on July 2, 1863. He was a Justice of the Peace, Deacon in the Primitive Baptist Church, supporter of the Wilson Female Seminary, and also a rural building contractor. (Two houses that he built in 1832 and 1837 are still standing in the year 1977.) [They are no longer standing.]

James B. Woodard married first on November 7, 1822, Nancy Daniel (December 4, 1792-December 1, 1825), daughter of Lemuel Daniel and wife Susannah "Ann" Barnes of Edgecombe County. Their only surviving child was Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Woodard (December 27, 1823-July 12, 1896) who married Thomas "Tom" Stancil (1819-1891) on January 8, 1846. He married secondly on March 20, 1827, Sarah Howell Peelle (May 23, 1800-October 19, 1837), daughter of John Jossey Peelle and wife Elizabeth Woodard who settled later in Troup County, Georgia. Their five children will be discussed subsequently. On April 7, 1841, he married as his third wife Sarah Baker King (March 9, 1799-June 9, 1863), daughter of William and Mary King. This well-educated and estimable lady had no children of her own but was a devoted mother to her step-children.

Gray Wilson Woodard (December 24, 1827-July 1, 1863) was the eldest son of James B. and Sarah Woodard. On September 7, 1854, he married Mary "Mary Gray" Barnes (September 8, 1837-January 21, 1929), daughter of James Stephen Barnes and wife Obedience Johnson. [Gray has been struck through and Ann written above it in ink.] On April 29, 1862, although he had five young children by that time, he enlisted as a private in Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A. He was described as a farmer 5 feet 9½ inches in height. He served the Confederacy loyally until about 9:00 A.M. of July 1, 1863, when he was shot dead near the Emmitsburg Pike, about 200 yards after crossing Willoughby Run, and facing the railroad cut in the direction of Gettysburg. He was buried on the Battlefield, and the exact location of his grave was never known to his family.

John Bunyan "Bun" Woodard (October 7, 1832-October 27, 1866) never married but left one daughter by Cintha Flora (May 1837-June 24, 1909), daughter of Hickman Ellis by Betsy Flora. Prior to the Civil War, he clerked at Old Sparta and in John Gardner's Store at Pine Tree (in Gardner's Township) and also indulged in social affairs and one leisurely trip to Florida. He was a private at the formation of Company F, 4th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A., which was mustered into the Confederate Service at New Bern on June 28, 1861. Excepting a furlough or two on account of his health, he served actively until being captured on October 19, 1864, at Strasburg, Virginia, after which he was imprisioned at Point Lookout Military Prison in Maryland, remaining there until taking the Oath of Allegiance on May 14, 1865, although his name appeared on the parole list of his Company at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. He tried subsequently to operate his farm, but his general health had been undermined by the hardships of the war and he survived it only a year and a half.

Margaret Peelle Woodard (February 12, 1835-January 5, 1901) married on December 6, 1853, Colonel William Woodard "Bill" Batts (September 18, 1827-August 20, 1869), son of William Batts and wife Martha Woodard. On May 8, 1870, she married secondly William Martin Thorne (December 24, 1842-September 29, 1889), son of James Redmond Thorne and wife Martha Batts. She had several children by both marriages. Colonel Batts held his rank from August 20, 1861, in the 113th Regiment of North Carolina Militia and was very active in Wilson County throughout the Civil War in recruitment, commissary, and Home Guard duties.

Mary Jane Woodard (March 29, 1837-April 28, 1905) was a twin. On February 25, 1858, she married first William Henry Edwards (1842-June 14, 1864), son of Edwin Edwards and wife Elizabeth Batts of Wilson County. He served in Company H, 59th North Carolina State Troops (7th North Carolina Cavalry) Regiment, C.S.A. Since his Confederate letters to his wife will appear separately, we shall not review here the details of his life and military service. On December 24, 1865, she married as her second husband William Howell Thomas (April 28, 1818-April 3, 1898), son of Hilliard Thomas and wife Zilpha Woodard. He served as a private in Company A, 8th North Carolina Senior Reserve Regiment, C.S.A., and was a prosperous planter both before and after the Civil War.

George Washington Woodard (March 29, 1837-March 23, 1864) enlisted at Wilson on April 29, 1862, as a private in Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A. He was described at that time as 5 feet 3½ inches in height and by occupation a farmer. He was not constitutionally prepared for the hardships of Confederate military life

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(**Woodard Letters,** Continued from page 4)*
and was attacked by chronic diarrhoea. He failed to respond to the best treatment then available at the General Receiving Hospital at Gordonsville, Virginia, and was buried there in a grave never identified by his relatives.

Woodard Thomas (1839 – May 23, 1912) mentioned in letter nine was a son of William Howell Thomas (whose second wife was Mary Jane Woodard) by his first wife Mary Eure. He had enlisted on April 15, 1862, as a private in Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A., described as a farmer 5'5" in height. On February 9, 1863, he suffered a contusion because of a fall from a railroad water tower and entered General Hospital No. 1 at Lynchburg. On April 6, 1863, he was furloughed for thirty days. On November 31, he was discharged from service suffering from "Phithis Pulmonalis with cavity in right lung; great anemia and debility; unfit for duty in any department of the government." On November 8, 1863, he left the hospital to return to Wilson County where he married later and lived until entering the North Carolina Soldiers' Home at Raleigh in 1909.

Willie (Wiley) Jordan Batts (February 28, 1819 – October 29, 1902), son of Bailey Batts and wife Esther Jordan and first-cousin of Colonel William Woodard Batts, was mentioned in letters ten and eleven. He was an early landowner in the Town of Wilson, a Justice of the Peace, and clerk of Upper Town Creek Primitive Baptist Church for a number of years; but he should be remembered principally because he was the most renowned botanic physician ever to practice (for a half-century) in our area. Willie J. Batts not only furnished three sons to the Confederate Army, which fact explained his several trips into Virginia during the War, but he was himself an active member of the Wilson County Home Guard. He married first Elizabeth Williford and secondly Eliza Poland, by whom he had a total of fourteen children.

The only references of the Woodard boys to their black associates were in letters two, seven, and thirteen. Howell Woodard (1818-April 10, 1871), son of London and Venus Woodard, was bequeathed to Gray Wilson Woodard in his father's will. He married Rhoda (of unknown surname) in 1845 and had at least fifteen children by the Wilson County Census of 1870. He was active in church affairs and was respected both before and after "freedom" as a man of character and responsibility.

"Uncle London" Woodard (1792-November 15, 1870) was one of the most respectable black men of his area and time. Having been married about 1817 to James Bullock Woodard's Venus, he was purchased by this planter on May 24, 1828, and became his overseer and distiller. London was baptized into the fellowship of the Tosneot Primitive Baptist Church on August 24, 1828, and Venus on August 4, 1838. This good woman died about the end of 1845, leaving several children to mourn her loss. In 1846 he married Penelope Lassiter, daughter of Hardy Lassiter. She had become an indispensable part of the James B. Woodard household after the death of his first wife in 1837. "Aunt Pennie," a free woman of light color who worked hard, saved her money, and bought land. On September 18, 1854, she also bought "Uncle London" and made him a free man. He was "liberated to preach" on April 21, 1866, and in the following December Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer gave him one acre upon which he soon erected "London's Primitive Baptist Church" which is still in existence.

Edwin Etheridge in letter nine was born in 1838, a son of Dempsey and Mary Etheridge who lived between Saratoga and Stantonsburg. His father was a farm manager. Edwin was a private in Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A. Letters two and fourteen mentioned another man in this same Company, John W. Moore (born in 1830) who married Jane and had five children in the Wilson County Census of 1860. A third member of the Company was Willis Watson (see letter two) who was presumably the man born in 1814 who lived west of Black Creek in 1860 with wife Ceny and three daughters. Mr. Arquer named in the last letter has not been identified and may have lived over the line in Pitt or Greene County. [Actually, it was letter 2. ]

[Editor's note: Mr. Johnston later learned the identity of Mr. Arquer, and his narrative of the family of Louis (or Lewis) de Arquer was included in the June 2005 issue of *Trees of Wilson.* Senor de Arquer was born in Spain about 1805 and had settled in Tarboro, North Carolina, by 1836. He married twice. He and his first wife Delpha appear to have had four children in the 1850 Edgecombe County Census, the oldest being George Washington Arquer who was born in 1844. By the time of the 1860 Census, Lewis, his wife Rosetta or "Rosa," and eight children lived in Saratoga District.

When George W. Arquer was eighteen, he enlisted on October 1, 1862, as a private in Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. He was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, forwarded to Fort Delaware on July 6. By August 10 he was sent to the Chester Military Hospital where he died on August 23, 1863, of "General Debility the result of Chronic Diarrhoea."

Lewis de Arquer served briefly from April 18, 1861, to May 27, 1861, as a substitute for C. W. Edgerton in Company F, 4th N. C. Regiment, C. S. A. On May 7, 1862, he was recruited at Wilson as a substitute for A. J. Harris, the Regimental Drummer of Company A, 55th N. C. State Troops Regiment, C. S. A. On July 29, 1863, Lewis was sent to Receiving and Wayside Hospital (General Hospital No. 9) at Richmond and forwarded the next day to Camp Winder Hospital No. 3. He was back with his company when he received pay on April 30, 1864. He was captured at Amelia Court House on April 5, 1865, reached City Point, Virginia, on April 13, and forwarded to Point Lookout Military Prison in Maryland where he was released after taking the Oath of Allegiance on June 22, 1865.

Since both father and son were serving in the same regiment as Gray Woodard at the time of the March 6, 1863, letter, we may guess that he refers to the father since he addressed him as Mr. Arquer.]

[Editor's note: Mr. Johnston's forward will be continued in the February issue of *Trees of Wilson.* The letters will also be included in the future issues until they have all been printed. We have not checked all references in the forward to see if there is another error in the number of the letter which mentioned any of the other individuals.]

## JACOB FLOWERS
### Hugh B. Johnston Files

Jacob Flowers, son of Henry Flowers and wife Jane Underwood of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, was an adult by 1728 and paid Barnaby Mackenne of the Upper Parish of Bertie Precinct in North Carolina £10 current Virginia Money for 150 acres south of Main Blackwater Swamp in Isle of Wight County, (from a patent of 490 acres to Mackenne on June 16, 1714), witnessed by John Thomas and Etheldred Taylor.[1] On February 23, 1740/1, Jacob Flowers, Thomas Allen, and George Washington were witnesses of the will of Oliver Woodard.[2] On January 28, 1750, Hardy Cane sold Jacob Flowers of Southampton County, Virginia, for £45 current Virginia money 200 acres south of Tar River adjoining Arthur Whitehead (a deed from William Whitehead on August 18, 1742), witnessed by William Cain, Edward Moore, and Richard Ricks.[3]

On January 28, 1750, William Cain of Edgecombe County sold Jacob Flowers of Southampton County, Virginia, for £40 current Virginia money 85 acres on Tar River adjoining Joshua Dawson and William Cain (patented by Robert Warren on July 26, 1743), witnessed by Edward Moore, Richard Ricks, and Thomas Bizell.[4] On March 14, 1752, Jacob (~~F~~) Flowers of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, sold Richard Ricks of Southampton County for £130 current money 335 acres north of Nottoway River adjoining Jacob Johnson, a Branch, Thomas Crafford, Horsepen Swamp, Broad Swamp, Benjamin Barnes, William Scott, and Elizabeth Exum, witnessed by Robert Ricks, Thomas Langley, and Dennis Hern.[5]

On March 27, 1759, Jacob Flowers was on a Petit Jury in Edgecombe County.[6] On July 2, 1760, he patented 550 acres north of Tyancoka Swamp in Edgecombe County.[7] On December 27, 1760, he recorded his cattle mark in the Edgecombe County Court[8]: "A Caon a Hole in the right Ear." On February 13, 1761, Jacob Flowers, Sr., Philip Thomas, and Duncan Lamon witnessed the will of Thomas Barnes of Edgecombe County.[9] On June 22, 1761, Jacob (~~I~~) Flowers of Edgecombe County sold Thomas Barnes for £10 Virginia money 350 acres north of Tyancoca Swamp (from a grant of 550 acres on July 2, 1760), witnessed by Thomas Dixon and Joseph Wombwell.[10] On July 23, 1761, Jacob Flowers patented 629 acres in Edgecombe County north of Great Branch adjoining Edward Moore and William Cane.[11] On September 21, 1761, Jacob Flowers of Edgecombe County sold Renison Tisdale of Edgecombe County for £10 proclamation money 250 acres south of Tar River on the Beaver Dam Prong of Tyancoca Swamp, witnessed by Duncan Lamon.[12] On August 1, 1762, Jacob Flowers patented 700 acres in Edgecombe County adjoining John Cohoon, Tyancoca Swamp, William Cohoon, and Jesse Flowers.[13]

On November 20, 1764, Jacob (~~I~~) Flowers married Mary Johnson, of Edgecombe County, bonded by Reneson (x) Tisdale.[14] She was probably daughter of Benjamin Johnson whose will was dated September 27, 1763.[14A] Jacob (~~I~~) Flowers made his will in Edgecombe County on July 14, 1766, and it was probated in October Court, 1766[15]: (1) wife Mary Flowers, use of 4 slaves, mare, horse, 11 cows and calves, 17 hogs, and the home plantation; (2) son and executor Jacob Flowers, 7 slaves, still and worm, rest of the stock; (3) daughter Elizabeth Calhoon, 3 slaves, 4 cows and calves; (4) daughter Priscilla Calhoon, 3 slaves, cow and calf; (5) grandson Hardy Flowers, tract of land [500 acres] north of Tar River on Great Branch and on the main road that leads to Lamon's Ferry, slave, 4 cows and calves, 4 sows and pigs, horse, and a bed and furnishings; (6) son-in-law and executor John Calhoon; and (7) witnesses Samuel Williams, Edward Moore, and John Tanner.

The inventory of the personal property of Jacob Flowers, deceased, was presented in January Court, 1767[16]: chest, table, 2 candlesticks, looking glass, 3 feather beds and furnishings; 62 black cattle at the home plantation, stock at Stephen Belcher's, 100 hogs, 5 horses, 9 slaves, 20 geese, some fowls; 19 pounds of feathers, 19 pounds of wool, 22 sides of leather, 10½ yards of "Cheeks a remnant Sagathy," wearing apparel, pocket razor, £5.17.1 of silver Virginia money, £9.10.5 in currency, Bible, Testament, Prayer Book; some oyster shells, some lime; 2 mugs, 3 stone jugs, spice mortar, 7 dishes, 6 basins, 8 plates, 12 knives, 12 forks, pair of spoon molds, ladle, candlemold, pair of bellows, pint pot, 4 butter pots, funnel, 3 pots, 2 frying pans, 2 tickler bottles, pepper box, 2 dram glasses, pair of fire tongs, cutting knife and block, box iron and heater; 4 augers, 2 drawing knives, handsaw, 2 chisels, pair of wedges, 8 weeding hoes, 8 grubbing hoes, 5 plow hoes, 2 Tomhocks, pair of steelyards, 8 files, grindstone, whip saw, cross cut saw, pair of sheep shears, some cooper's tools, cart and wheels, woolen wheel, linen wheel, loom and harness, pair of wool cards, hackle, 2 tubs, 2 pails, 2 piggins, 15 hogsheads, 17 barrels, 2 gums; woman's saddle, 2 pairs of leather bags, man's saddle, bridle, and housing.

Children of Jacob Flowers, Sr.

1. Jacob Flowers, Jr.
2. Elizabeth Flowers married William Cahoon.
3. Priscilla Flowers married John Cahoon.
4. Jesse Flowers

Notes:

1. Isle of Wight County, Deed Book 4, p. 14
2. Isle of Wight County, Will Book 4, p. 338
3. Halifax County, Deed Book 4, p. 16
4. Halifax County, Deed Book 4, p. 17
5. Southampton County, Deed Book 1, pp. 401/402
6. Minutes of the Edgecombe County Court
7. Patent Book 11, p. 179; Edgecombe County, Deed Book 5, p. 11
8. Edgecombe County, Marks & Brands, in the State Archives at Raleigh
9. Abstracts of Edgecombe County Wills, p. 23
10. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 00, p. 283
11. Patent Book 11, p. 176
12. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 00, p. 364
13. Patent Book 11, p. 175
14. Original Marriage Bond, in the State Archives.

14A Will Book A, p. 123

15. Abstracts of Edgecombe County Wills, p. 128
16. Edgecombe County, Records of Estates, 1764-1772, p. 23

## CONTRACT TO BUILD AN OPERA HOUSE

**Wilson County Miscellaneous Records 1786-1961**
**N. C. Archives, C. R. 105.928.8**
**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

NORTH CAROLINA
WILSON COUNTY

THIS CONTRACT, made and entered into this the 29th day of January, 1919, by L. V. Grady, of Wilson County, North Carolina, party of the first part, and H. R. Mason, of Wayne County, North Carolina, and H. F. Stallings of Lenoir County, North Carolina, parties of the second part.

WITNESSETH:

That the said party of the first part, in consideration of the matters and things, hereinafter set forth, agrees to and with the parties of the second part that he will, on or before September 1, 1919, unless prevented by strike or from any other cause over which he has no control, complete an opera house, in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by S. B. Moore, Architect, which plans are to be approved by the party of the first part and by the parties of the second part; said building to be erected in the rear of the Grady Building on Nash Street, in the Town of Wilson, Wilson County, North Carolina, and embracing the lots recently purchased from C. C. Daniels and E. F. Nadal and on a portion of the lot purchased of Dr. J. C. Grady; that the said party of the first part is to furnish an entrance to said opera house through the Grady Building and the entrance is to be remodeled, as per specifications drawn by said Moore, Architect, not to exceed $800.00 in costs, unless otherwise agreed on by the parties hereto. The party of the first part is to complete the above building and entrance, as above set out according to said plans and specifications and is to install all necessary opera chairs, or other chairs as may be required.

The parties of the second part are to furnish all other equipment that they may desire installed therein.

It is agreed that the parties of the second part shall lease said opera house and entrance thereto above mentioned, for a period of ten years, beginning on or before September 1, 1919, or on completion of said building, with the right to rent said building and said entrance at the expiration of said ten years for an additional five years, if the parties hereto can then agree upon the terms of rental. The parties of the second part agree to pay, as rental therefor, ten percent (10%) on the costs of said opera house and the costs of the lots on which said opera house is to be erected. The value of said lot is hereby fixed at $12,500.00 and 10% thereon together with 10% of costs of construction of the said building shall be the rental the parties of the second part are to pay. Said rental to be paid each month, in advance. It being understood that the costs of remodeling the entrance to the opera house through the Grady Building shall not be included in the rental.

It is further agreed that upon the signing of this contract, the parties of the second part shall pay to the party of the first part the sum of $4,000.00, as a guarantee for the faithful performance on their part of this contract, and the party of the first part agrees to pay interest at the rate of 6 percent on said sum, so long as the same is held by him, as a guarantee.

It being expressly understood that, in the event the parties of the second part do not take the building when completed, and do not carry out their part of the contract, then the said $4,000.00 shall be the property of the party of the first part.

The party of the first part is to give a note, secured by a second mortgage on said opera house property and the Grady Building, in the sum of $4,000.00, as guarantee, for the return of $4,000.00 deposited by the party of the second part, in the event the said party of the first part fails to carry out his part of the contract. Said note to be payable at the expiration of the lease, with interest payable annually thereon; said note to be drawn so as not to be transferable. The first mortgage, which is to be given, is only for the necessary costs in the construction and seating said opera house and making alterations in said entrance.

The party of the first part agrees that he will let the construction of said opera house by contract and the contract price for the construction thereof shall be approved by the parties of the second part.

In the event said building is damaged, or destroyed by fire, the party of the first part agrees to repair or reconstruct said building, within the very earliest possible time and during the time of reconstruction the rent is to cease.

The parties of the second part are to bear all expenses of maintaining said building when completed and delivered to them.

It is agreed that all necessary repairs to said building shall be made by the party of the first part.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals in triplicate, the day and year first above written.

*L. V. Grady*
*H. R. Mason*
*H. F. Stallings*

WITNESS: *S. B. Moore*

NORTH CAROLINA—WILSON COUNTY.

The due execution of the foregoing (or annexed) instrument was this day proved before me by the oath and examination of *S. B. Moore* the subscribing witness thereto. Let the instrument and the certificate be registered. Witness my hand this *23*

*(continued on page 11)*

## COUNTY POST OFFICES

### "Looking Backward," by Hugh Johnston

[Editor's note: This newspaper clipping was found among the papers of the late Laura Cox Powell. The date and newspaper are unknown. It is obvious from the article that this is a continuation of a nearly alphabetical listing of post offices, past and present, in Wilson County. If anyone has a clipping of Mr. Johnston's other post office descriptions, we would like to print them in future issues of *Trees of Wilson.*]

Saratoga Post Office was established in Edgecombe County on January 31, 1854, with James R. Daniel as Post Master. Nathan Webb became Post Master on July 25, 1854, Ephraim D. Robbins on February 28, 1859, and it was discontinued on December 11, 1866. On October 18, 1875, Mrs. Mary C. Daniels of the Wilson Post Office proposed that it be re-established with Newet Drew Owens as Post Master, and this was done on November 10th, but it was discontinued for a second time on April 19, 1877. On August 15, 1879, Mrs. Daniels proposed L. L. Gay for this Post Office on the route from Wilson to Marlboro over which mail was carried three times a week by J. W. McGowan, and it was re-established with Joshua D. Gay as Post Master on September 2, 1879. S. D. Shelton became Post Master on June 22, 1893, Joshua S. Gay on July 21, 1897, Aurelius M. Moore on August 10, 1901, John A. McKeel on January 15, 1904, and it was discontinued for a third time on August 31, 1910. On April 18, 1939, it was proposed to re-establish the Saratoga Post Office with Robert Alton Gardner as Post Master, and this was confirmed on October 17th. It is in Saratoga Township, with Contentnea Creek five miles south, Walstonburg six miles east, and Farmville twelve miles north.

Sims Post Office was almost named Peel Post Office, but by April 14, 1908, the present name had been inserted in the application papers. It was established on June 19, 1908, with Mark Peel as Post Master. It was 5 miles north of Taylor and 1¾ miles east of Neverson. Mrs. Veanie Peel became Post Master on September 7, 1909, Veanie P. Sanders on April 30, 1910, Christopher C. Peel on May 16, 1912, Jennie I. Flowers on September 13, 1919, James H. Flowers (Acting) on May 15, 1928, Louis F. Boykin on March 21, 1929, James Dudley Boyette, Jr. (Acting) on July 1, 1935, and (Regular) on November 11, 1935. He reported on July 3rd that Millstone Swamp was ¼ mile north, Bailey 3 miles west, and Wilson 10 miles east. William H. Jones was (Acting) Post Master on July 16, 1938, and (Regular) on August 17, 1938, William H. Jones, Jr., on April 22, 1939, and Cullen S. Nichols on July 18, 1939. He reported on October 18, 1941, that his Post Office was in Oldfield Township, three miles north of Contentnea Creek, eight miles south of Tar River, and one mile south of the Nash County line.

Stantonsburg Post Office has enjoyed a rather varied career. Stantonsburgh Post Office was established in Edgecombe County on September 29, 1830, with William Stewart as Post Master at an annual salary of $600. He was succeeded by Thomas S. Burt on September 23, 1836, and Robert S. Adams on October 24, 1840. It appears to have been discontinued shortly after this date, but was re-established on April 5, 1870, with George W. Stanton as Post Master, being discontinued again on October 12, 1870. Although the name of George W. Stanton was proposed, this Post Office was re-established on August 16, 1877, with Wilkinson S. Dunn as Post Master. The number of inhabitants served at this time was about two hundred. Benjamin F. Thompson [was appointed Post Master] on February 23, 1886, Henry B. Lane on March 26, 1886, and John C. Stanton on February 3, 1892, when the name was changed to Stantonsburg Post Office. He reported on March 1st that it was in Stantonsburg Township, with Moyton ¾ mile east, Wilson 10½ miles northwest, Saratoga 5 miles northeast, and Speight's Bridge 6 miles southeast. Mrs. Ida B. Thompson became Post Mistress on April 25, 1894, and it was discontinued on August 8, 1896.

On January 19, 1901, W. S. Lane, Acting Post Master of Moyton, proposed that "101 in Village of Stantonsburg" on the route from Wilson to Castoria in Greene County be served by Charles Simpson Whitley as Post Master, and this was confirmed on January 29, 1901. William L. Shelton followed him on January 21, 1907, and reported on February 8, 1908, that Contentnea Creek was ¼ mile west and Toisnot Swamp 1¾ miles east. John C. Stanton became Post Master on March 14, 1908, Simon S. Strother on September 10, 1909, Romulus E. Beamon on April 14, 1914, Lafayette C. Darden on February 23, 1917, Charles S. Whitley on October 1, 1917, Mrs. S. C. Williams (Acting) on January 1, 1920, Mrs. Lillian D. Williams on February 20, 1920, Simon S. Strother (Acting) on May 16, 1922, and (Regular) on August 10, 1922, Mrs. Alice Strother (Acting) on November 26, 1923, Miss Annie L. Stanton on April 28, 1924, and Mrs. Bonnie B. Shingleton on October 20, 1933. She reported on October 24, 1941, that Eureka was five miles west and Walstonburg six miles northeast.

Sun Post Office with Leonidas P. Woodard as Post Master was proposed by W. S. Harriss of the Wilson Post Office on December 3, 1897. It was established on February 10, 1898, and was discontinued on January 31, 1905. It was in Gardner's Township, five miles east of Wilson, five miles west of Saratoga, eight miles north of Moyton, and eight miles north of Contentnea Creek.

Talbot Post Office with Joseph S. Wilson as Post Master was proposed by D. M. Stott of the Connor Post Office on December 29, 1891. It was established on March 21, 1892, with Eatman seven miles northwest and Taylor four miles north.

Rodney Post Office was the name first proposed. Mrs. Safronia M. Wilson became Post Mistress on August 27, 1892, and on June 20, 1895, she proposed William Winborne for Post Master at a new site six miles west of Filmore and five miles east of Connor, which was approved on June 28th. Joseph S. Wilson succeeded him on February 3, 1898, and wrote on March 26th that his Post Office was "at the old site where it was first established in 1892," ten miles west of Wilson. Mrs. Sallie Parker became Post Mistress on November 20, 1901. Mrs. Hattie Bass on February 1, 1902, and it was discontinued on October 15, 1902. Mrs. Bass wrote on March 6, 1902, that it was in Oldfield Township on the route

*(Continued on page 9)*

*(Wilson County Post Offices, continued from page 8)*
from Heflin to Wilson, two miles east of Cefare.

**Locations of former post offices named above** as described in the Gazetteer of Wilson County prepared by Hugh Buckner Johnston and Garland Palmer Stout to accompany the Wilson County Historical Research Map by G. P. Stout. The existing towns have not been listed.

- Cefare—Post office site 1899-1904 named to honor Cefare Bissett who was the first postmaster. It was in the northwestern part of the county, west of state highway 581 on county road 1129 near the Nash County line.
- Connor—Post office site 1890-1894, 1894-1904. It was in the northwestern part of the county, west of state highway 581 at the intersection of county roads 1126 and 1131, very near the Nash County line.
- Eatman was not listed in the gazetteer.
- Filmore—Post office site 1893-1904. It was located in western Wilson County where county road 1154 crosses Highway 95.
- Heflin was not listed in the gazetteer.
- Moyton—Post office site 1886-1906 named for Francis M. Moye, the first postmaster. It was also the site of Moyton Academy. It was in the southern part of the county at the intersection of Highways 58 and 222 near Stantonsburg.
- Neverson—Post office site 1908-1911 named for Neverson Williams. It was located in northwestern Wilson County where county road 1138 crosses the Norfolk Southern rail line, very near the Nash County line.
- Rodney was not listed in the gazetteer.
- Sun—Also known as Woodard, was located on old highway 264, now Highway 91, near Driver's Store.
- Talbot—Located at the intersection of county roads 1137 and 1149, Talbot was near Sims on the other side of the Norfolk Southern rail line.
- Tayor—Post office site 1882-1885, 1885-1914, named for Dr. J. M. Taylor, now known as Rock Ridge. It is located at the intersection of county roads 1142 and 1149, near Highway 42 in the western part of the county.

## LEWIS I. WOODARD OBITUARY

### *Zion's Landmark,* November 15, 1891

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

EDITORS OF ZION'S LANDMARK, DEAR BRETHREN:—By the request of the dear sister and widow of the dear brother, Lewis I. Woodard, I send you for publication this obituary.

Brother Woodard was the youngest son of Arthur and Appy Woodard, both dead. Brother L. I. Woodard was born 16th October 1859, and died 20th March 1891, aged 32 years, 5 months and 4 days. There is no commendation that I can write for the dear brother that can be of any benefit to those who knew him, only to give honor and praise to whom it is due.

He united with the Primitive Baptist church at Union, in Johnston county, together with one old brother, Henry O. Stallings who is about 90 years old, and yet living, and desires to hear something of the works that follow the young precious brother that walked so cheerfully with him down into the liquid grave, and both baptized by the writer 2nd Sunday in Nov. 1887.

Brother Woodard's death Sickness was Typhoid Malaria. He leaves a very kind, affectionate wife, three brothers and two sisters, and many other relatives and acquaintences that greatly mourn their loss, but not without hope that their or our loss is his eternal gain. We are confident in our minds that his last enemy is destroyed.

I remember one time brother Woodard's horse ran him against a tree, and tore a piece out of his thigh about as long as a man's hand. The same horse at another time broke brother Woodard's thigh. This was all done before he was married.

He was not known to murmur or complain, but he was a boy that prayed to his Father in secret. The writer believes that brother Woodard's prayers often reached heaven. He was a brother that would visit the people around him that were in distress. ... We believe dear sister, that your dear husband will rise again. ...

S. H. BRADDY.

Princeton, N. C.

## 1852 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry Hydenwel sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church -- either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years -- just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

## PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SETS 175TH ANNIVERSARY IN AUGUST

### Hugh Buckner Johnston

It was one and three-quarters centuries ago [now more than two centuries], in the year 1802, that Elder Francis Winstead and about eighty members of The Falls of Tar River Baptist Church near Rocky Mount were dismissed to establish a new church at a more convenient location on the old Wilson-Tarboro Road (as it would be known after Wilson and Wilson County were established); and the present members of this church will be very conscious of their historical heritage at their annual Big August Meeting on the third Sunday of next month, presided over by their current pastor, Elder Mark Garner.

Two people have already been responsible for an important contribution to this celebration, as well as to the remembrance of the Bicentennial of America. They are Mrs. Thelma Whitehead Page and Mrs. Oneida Williams Price, both being descendants of families long associated with the Upper Town Creek Church. They envisioned a permanent and handsome two-faced aluminum roadside marker to remind the passer-by of the antiquity of the ancestral church, and also a Memorial Fund that would guarantee the care of the considerable graveyard in the rear of the meeting-house.

My aforementioned cousins believed in their "loyalty fund" to the extent that they went out and almost single-handedly collected enough money both to pay for the impressive Memorial recently erected and pictured here, and to make a modest beginning on the cemetery upkeep fund. I believe that they were really astonished by the number of people whom they encountered who valued the part played by this church in its community and in the lives of their own ancestors, to the extent that they desired to have a personal involvement in the preservation of the church, the grove, and the graves of neighbors and kinsmen now gone to their final rest.

Not many living people remember that Upper Town Creek Primitive Baptist Church was known as the Union Baptist Church until the name was changed officially on October 15, 1898; or that the first meeting-house stood on the northeast corner of the crossroads until the first part of the present ground was purchased in the southeast corner on May 14, 1831. Daniel Land is said to have been the first person buried in the graveyard established in the rear of the new lot. It is apparent that major alterations were effected in the meeting-house about 1854 and again in 1879.

The only unhappy event was the removal from membership of the Clerk who was responsible for the loss of nearly six years of Minutes and $75 donated towards the 1879 building. The handsome brick structure now occupying the same site was erected in 1933. In the old days it was nothing unusual for a communicant who felt that he or she had acted or spoken in an unseemly manner to come before the Saturday Conference without being visited by a committee, to acknowledge the fault, and to beg for pardon.

A good example of this occurred on October 10, 1884, when Elder W. R. Wiggins stated before the brethren that some stranger had broken into his house and that he himself had "used an oath which he had not used in thirteen years, three months, and eleven days," and asked for their forgiveness. The nature of the oath was not recorded, but it was excused. Penitent wrongdoers were almost always pardoned under such circumstances, but woe to the unrepentant!

Conference was also a place where members could bring up any question of doctrine or propriety for discussion and approval or disapproval by the congregation. On July 16, 1803, William Robbins wanted to know whether or not it was in accordance with the Word of God for a professing Christian to call anybody a "son of a bitch," or to say "God drat," etc.; and on October 18, 1823, "By Zouns," "Eat the Devil," and "I swear so and so" were added to this list. On January 18, 1823, someone had asked whether or not it was morally right to sell a slave where the selling would part a husband and wife. In every instance the Church's congregation voted strongly in the negative.

I shall conclude with [an] attempt that I made after the Yearly Meeting there on August 20, 1950, to preserve for posterity a verbal picture of my personal reactions to the simple type of religious worship that had been practiced by my own ancestors at Upper Town Creek Primitive Baptist Church since its founding nearly a century and a half earlier:

"It was a warm day, and the three doors and all the windows stood open to catch the slight breeze. Most of the wooden seats were occupied, with women predominating on the right side of the church and men on the left. The old pastor and three younger preachers occupied the space behind the pulpit on which was visible a glass and a pitcher of cool well-water. The congregation had brought their own hymnbooks, thick little volumes full of song verses but devoid of a single musical note, nor did they have any kind of instrumental accompaniment as they sang the old familiar words to one or another of the old familiar tunes.

"From the windows numerous automobiles could be seen parked in the old grove where in former years horses and buggies and wagons would have appeared. The leaves of the oak trees stirred lazily, and in the distance the brown tassels of a field of ripe corn presented a timeless rural scene while suggesting the early approach of Autumn. I thought of all the good people who had come to worship in one or another of the buildings that had stood here since 1802, and especially of those who had passed from these portals to their eternal sleep beneath the quiet tombstones behind the church or in some obscure family graveyard that may have yielded long ago to neglected under-growth or the plow."

Theirs was a faith that made life more meaningful and prepared them to meet death unafraid!

WCGS officers installed November 30, 2007
Sue Powell, President, Jane Poston, board member, Phil Mooring, vice-president, Frances Roberson, Secretary.

## NOVEMBER 28, 2006, MEETING

The November meeting of WCGS was opened with a welcome to all guests by Sue Powell, our president. The minutes were approved as printed in the last issue of Trees and a very brief treasurer's report was given.

An up date was given on Founding Families progress which has been curtailed at this time due to illness. Hopefully, it will be completed early in the new year.

The 2007 calendar which focuses on Lucama will be ready for mailing soon. We are grateful to Horace Renfrow, Ralph Barnes, Susan Wright and Faustina Rouse for their information on the sites chosen for the calendar. Wanda Taylor and Carol Forbes helped with the pictures, and Wanda provided composition and typing assistance.

Sue read the annual reports giving an account of the past years activities. She also expressed our appreciation to Deborah Webb, the reference librarian in charge of the Local History and Genealogy Room who is also a WCGS member and supporter. Sue thanked Carol Forbes for her role as information manager of the WCGS phone line and the e-group. Appreciation was expressed to retiring board member Judy O'Neal and the entire board for their assistance and support.

The 2007 officers were installed: Sue Powell, president
Phil Mooring, vice president
Frances Roberson, secretary
Henry Powell, treasurer
Jane Poston, Board Member

Some of the 2007 programs have been finalized with Betty McCain beginning the year in January giving us background information on "Religious Immigration," and she will return again in April giving an update on the Wilson County Historical Association World War II Project.

Having covered the county in the past WCGS calendars, it has been decided that the 2008 calendar will feature old family homes.

Sue reminded us that **now** is the **time for dues**. Those not paid by the February mailing of Trees will not receive additional issues until dues are paid.

Show and Tell by members was enjoyed as the program for the evening. We viewed old business records, an old family Bible, historical autographs, an old doll, family pictures and civil war records. Those all made us aware of the importance of our family treasures which we have not valued enough in the past!!

Following Show and Tell, we adjourned for refreshments which had been brought by the attending members. It was a most enjoyable evening.

*Frances W. Roberson*

## WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Local History Room awaits your research session. The collection of books and microfilm is very extensive. Plan to take advantage of our expanded research facility.

**NEW!!!** A special file cabinet has been added to house family history records in a secure manner. Those loose files already at the library are in the process of being filed. Your family records would be welcome additions. See Deborah Webb, Reference Librarian, to make your contribution.

The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking is available near the Broad Street Entrance.

## NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

*The James Lafayette Whitehurst Family of Pitt and Martin Counties, North Carolina* by Margaret Ann Whitehurst Johnson.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Dues renewal time is upon us. Send us your payment to continue to be an active member of Wilson County Genealogical Society. If your renewal payment has not been received by the time that we make the mailing labels for February *Trees of Wilson*, your subscription will be discontinued.

• The Greene County (N. C.) Museum is sponsoring a new family research group. The organizational meeting was held Jan. 18, 2007. Contact the museum or Mike Edge if you are interested in learning more. Phone 252-747-2344 or email wbts1862@earthlink.net .

On February 17, 2007, at 7 p.m., Mark H. Dunkelman will present a lecture, "Marching with Sherman: The Story Behind a Book-in-Progress," at the Greene County Museum, 107 NW Third Street, Snow Hill. He is interested in learning more about the local reactions to and encounters with Sherman's army. He would like to hear your family's stories.

• The research room of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History will be open on Saturdays from 8:45 a. m. to 4:45 p.m. This service is again available after budget cutbacks in April 2002. The center, located at 8301 Parklane Road in Columbia, houses federal South Carolina census records, death certificates, probate records, land deeds and military records, the earliest of them dating to 1671.

Our thanks to Cora Nevitt for sending this information from *The State* newspaper. Our thanks go also to the North Carolina State Archives which continues to have the search room open on Saturday for researchers.

***(Ann Eliza Armstrong,** Continued from page 3)*

wit. B.J. Keech, CFC.

Application for Letters of Administration were filled out by Carter Pope on 23 Jan 1888, stating that he was the proper person to administer the estate. Worsley had an estate valued at about $850 and Martha A. Pope was his only surviving child and she had renounced her right of administration in favor of Carter Pope.

Signed Carter Pope

***(Opera House, continued from page 7)***

day of *August* A. D. 1923.

*J. D. Bardin,* Clerk Superior Court

NORTH CAROLINA
Wilson County
Filed for registration at *4:20* o'clock P. M. *23* day of *Aug.* 1923 and recorded in Book *146* Page *162*

*Tempie J Batton,*

Register of Deeds

*Trees of Wilson*
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**Armstrong, Flowers, Woodard**

**January 2007**

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# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

February 2007 Volume 16 Number 2

## President's Message

As a child growing up in Wilson, I always enjoyed the trip to the downtown area. That was because we rode down Nash Street which was lined with stately old mansions. Nash Street in Wilson was once described as one of the most beautiful streets in the country because of the homes and trees that lined it.

I was fascinated by the houses' grandeur, ornate pillars and trim work. One house, which was my favorite, had a turret with windows all around. My fanciful child's mind conjured all sorts of stories to take place in the room at the top.

Alas, most of the houses are now gone. The families moved away or died out. The upkeep was too high. The style was old fashioned. For whatever the reason, the houses were torn down and something else replaced them. Wilson lost much of its beauty and charm.

In recent years, concerned citizens have seen the error of the past and have sought ways to arrest further destruction of the architectural heritage of the city. A focus group began meeting to explore possible steps that could be taken.

About the same time, a dormant fund for historical preservation was transferred to a new board. J. Robert Boykin, Henry Powell and myself were appointed to establish a full board and reactivate the fund.

The new board established *Preservation of Wilson* "dedicated to preserving the unique architectural and cultural heritage of Wilson." As stewards of Wilson's historic environment, the organization seeks to "protect historically, architecturally, and culturally significant properties."

*Sue Evans Powell*

## FEBRUARY 27TH MEETING

### Wilson County Public Library 7:00 PM

"Saving Wilson's future by preserving its past." This is the slogan adopted by Preservation of Wilson, the newly formed not-for-profit organization with the mission to preserve the architectural and cultural heritage of Wilson. With a funding base begun by a dormant historical preservation fund, a revolving fund has been established to find buyers who are willing to rehabilitate and preserve significant properties. The Downtown Wilson Development Corporation has funded, for one year, an executive director, Robert Crawford, who will speak to us about their mission, why it is important, and how concerned persons can help.

Each house was once the home of someone's ancestors or family members. There is a family story behind every home. As genealogists, we appreciate the pride of place and desire to preserve our heritage. Please join us on February 27th to learn more about this important effort and to show our support for the preservation of our heritage.

E. A. Darden--James Douglas House

## Highlights of This Issue

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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees*.

Fredericksburg, Va.
April 19, 1863

Mr. James B. Woodard
Wilson, N. C.

Dear Father:

I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and I hope this may find you and family enjoying the same good blessing. Father, I cannot imagine what is the matter with you that you do not write to me. I think I have written two or three times since I have received one from you. Father, I have sent the pair of shoes that you sent me by Lieut. Simms home. They are so short that I can not wear them. You can call for them at Mr. Stansil's. I sent them by Mr. Walston. He was to leave them at Tom's. There isn't anything new with me. We have very fine weather now. I rather think all the fruit is killed in this State, and I expect it is all killed at home. Write to me soon and let me know all the news in general.

I will close. As ever your obedient son,

BUN.

Hamilton Crossings, Va. May 21st/63

Dear Father:

I will write you a few lines to let you know where I am and how I am. I don't feel very well at this time. I am at the Regiment; I arrived here yesterday eve-

*(continued on page 14)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(Woodard Letters, continued from page 13)*

ning. I can't tell yet whether I am exchanged or not, but I guess I shall find out in a few days. You must write to me just as soon as you receive this. Tell all my sisters and relations how I am and tell them that I will write to them as soon as an opportunity will admit. I have not drawn any money in a good while, and I can't get paper &C until I get some money, which I think I will get in a few days. Direct your letter to Hampton's Crossings, Company F, 4th Regt. N. C. S. T., Ramseur's Brigade, Rhodes Division, in care Lieut. H. M. Warren. Tell my sisters to write to me and tell them where to write.

Dear Father, in thy supplications to God the allwise supreme being, always think of me a poor sinful sinner. Father, my troubles in this world are great, yes, more than my tongue can express. I will close. Write soon.

As ever your
Obdt Son &C
Bun

## MARTHA CLARK OBITUARY

### *Zion's Landmark,* October 1, 1891, February 1, 1892

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

MARTHA CLARK.

This dear sister died last winter in Wilson after a brief illness. She had been a member of the church at Wilson about 25 years, and was the widow of brother E. G. Clark, a dear member who passed away years ago.

Among the good traits of sister Clark, and she had many, was her industrious and saving disposition. Nor did she labor merely to hoard up money, for she was kind and liberal to the poor and needy, and untireing in her labors for the comfort of others. Her humility was not less remarkable. She never appeared better satisfied than at the feet of the brethren in her service to them. Nor was there any disposition manifested in her to make trouble among people. She was a burden bearer and not a burden maker.

Her memory is very precious to me.

She leaves four children all prosperous in business and of good character.

P. D. C. [sic.]

MARTHA CLARK.

About 12 months ago sister Martha Clark a member of the church at Wilson died. An obituary was written by myself soon after but was lost, and the dates I have not of her birth, death &c. She was one of the old fashioned members of this church that always attended to her own business laboring with her own hands, and she gave to the needy of her substance. She always remembered her pastor with a gift year by year. How out of use that is becoming among our people.

Sister Clark was truthful, honest, faithful and kind, and one of the best members of the church. She claimed no great gift of counselling others, but lived in such an honest, meek and good way that it needed no cunning advice to get her out of trouble. She never got into trouble she behaved herself so well. …

Sister Clark was the wife of brother Edwin Clark who died years ago. She leaves four children, two sons and two daughters, all good citizens and prospering.

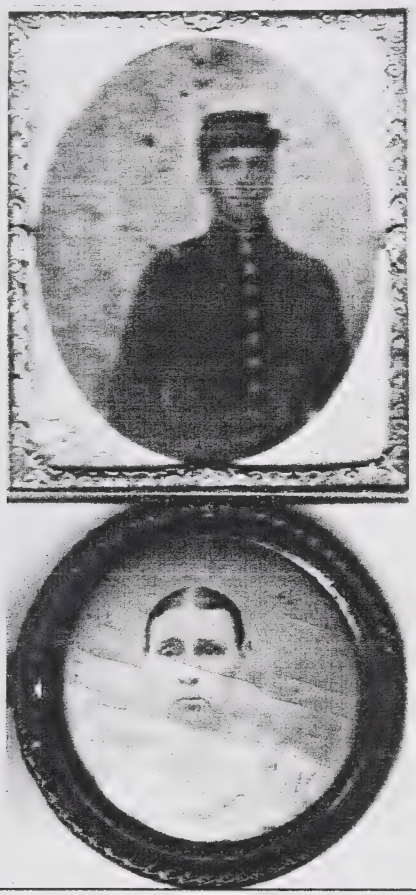
How sadly I do miss her and other dear ones gone to rest in peace I hope and feel.

P. D. G.

## THE WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS OF WILSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

### Edited by Hugh Buckner Johnston

[Editor's note: Mr. Johnston transcribed these letters, prepared an introduction, bound the collection, and placed a copy in the Wilson County Public Library. The first letter was included in the January issue of Trees, and the other letters will be included in future issues.]



John Bunyan "Bun" Woodard and Cintha Flora
Photos courtesy of John L. Whitley

## Introduction continued

Both Joshua Walston and John Walston are possibilities for the Mr. Walston in letter 3, although I presently prefer the latter. Joshua was born in 1815, married Anna Felton (born 1802) on December 22, 1840, and was worth $1,029 at the Wilson County Census of July 20, 1860. His only son Stephen H. Walston (born 1842) enlisted with the rank of Corporal on June 4, 1861, in Company G, 5th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A., and was killed at Williamsburg on May 5, 1862. John Walston (born 1813) married Theresa Felton (born 1812) on May 27, 1834, and had Kinchen Walston (born in 1840) who served as a private in Company F, 30th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C. S.A., survived the Civil War, and married on February 8, 1870, Phenetty Luper, daughter of James and Mourning Luper.

Letter three mentioned Patrick Henry "Pat" Simms (September 23, 1833-February 12, 1864), son of Theophilus Simms and wife Abigail Holland. On April 18, 1861, he enlisted in Company F, 4th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A. He was elevated to 2nd Lieutenant on May 16, 1861, and to 1st Lieutenant on May 31, 1862. He was forced to resign from the service on February 7, 1863, because of "disease of lungs and bowels, attended with much debility and failing physical strength" that resulted in his death a year later.

Henry May Warren (March 4, 1836-February 27, 1906) in letter four was mustered into Company F, 4th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A., on June 28, 1861. This Company was called the "Wilson Light Infantry," and he was one of its Corporals by December 1861. He was promoted to Ordnance Sergeant on March 8, 1863, and to 1st Lieutenant on May 3, 1863. He entered the Confederate Hospital in Richmond, suffering from a gunshot wound, on March 26, 1864. He became Captain of Company F about August 20, 1864, was captured at the Battle of Winchester on September 19, and was confined in Fort Delaware Military Prison until his release on June 17, 1865. He resided at Wilson after the Civil War and is buried in Maplewood Cemetery beside his first wife, Annie J. Edwards (May 14, 1841-July 5, 1885). He married Sallie Bass (born 1845) on December 22, 1886, but there is no tombstone for her. Lula May Warren (June 16, 1868-October 18, 1918) married B. J. Price, and Willis Medicus Warren (August 25, 1870-October 11, 1885) died as a youth.

Benjamin Franklin Briggs (November 16, 1836-May 11, 1910) in letters sixteen, seventeen, and twenty was from Wayne County and was a clerk worth $1,200 living in Black Creek at the time of the Wilson County Census of 1860. He advanced from Lieutenant to Captain of Company A, 55th North Carolina State Troops Regiment, C.S.A. He survived the Civil War and served as Sheriff of Wilson County in the 1870's and as a Trustee of the Wilson Collegiate Institute. Among other financial ventures, he erected by 1889 the Briggs Hotel which was remodeled in 1902 and demolished by 1955, after being something of a "landmark" in Wilson. He married Nancy Juanita Barnes (November 25, 1840-February 24, 1896), daughter of Jonathan Barnes and wife Nancy Horne. His second wife was Elizabeth Barron (May 18, 1857-January 24, 1940), daughter of Colonel Bolling B. Barron and wife Mary Elizabeth Amanda Thomas. He had two sons by his first wife: Roscoe Giles Briggs who married Mena Branch Roberts on June 25, 1895; and Charles Otis Briggs (July 29, 1866-January 19, 1892).

Only eight geographic locations appeared in the series of letters. Franklin Depot is about twenty-two miles west of Suffolk, Virginia. Fredericksburg is north of Richmond, over half-way to Washington, D.C. Hamilton's Crossing was a little west of Fredericksburg. Petersburg was about twenty-five miles south of Richmond, and Lynchburg was about one hundred miles west of Richmond. Orange Court House was about thirty-six miles west of Fredericksburg, and Rapidan Station was at the River of that name six miles north-east of the former. Gordonsville with its Confederate Hospital was some nine miles southwest of Orange Court House.

Hugh Buckner Johnston
Wilson, North Carolina
October 18, 1977

## ANN WILLIAMSON ESTATE RECORD

### Contributed by Krista Williamson

All grammatical and spelling errors included.

[Editor's note: This inventory was originally posted on the WCGS egroup. It is being included in *Trees of Wilson* because of the historical record that it presents. We can get from the items listed an idea of the home life of Ann Williamson. From the purchasers, we can get clues to her family and neighbors.

According to some experienced researchers, if we analyze the total of purchases made by different individuals, we might be able to determine relationship. For instance, if persons with the Williamson surname made purchases totaling the same amount, they might have been siblings. If persons with different surnames made purchases totaling the same amount as those just mentioned, they might have been husbands of a Williamson sister. If a persons' total purchase amount was half the above amount, that might have been a grandchild of a deceased legal heir of Ann Williamson. Of course, purchases by neighbors might throw that reasoning off. Try it to see if you come up with a pattern.

The inventory has been converted to a table format for ease in reading.]

(p.1)

Acompt of Sales of the personal property of Ann Williamson Des'd taken the 23 of November 1821 on Acredit of Six Months.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 100 lb of Cotton by the hundred | to Kizziah Williamson | $2.90 |
| 1 Stove Jug | to Josiah Hinnant | .69 |
| 1 ditto & vinegar | to Thomas Williamson | .76 |
| 1 tin bucket | to Edward Davis | .45 |
| 1 Stove Jug | to John Peelle | .69 |
| 1 case of Knives & forks | to Kizziah Williamson | .59 |
| 2 Wheat Sifters | to Hawley Benjamon | .23 |
| 1 Meal Sifter | to Hardy Williamson | .06 |
| 2 Wheat Sifters | to Benjamon Hawley | .20 |
| 1 pale & Sifter | to Ythel Dickorson | .41 |
| 1 Butter pot | to Benjamon Hawley | .11 |
| 1 frying pan | to Edward Davis | 1.26 |
| 1 Dutch Oven | to Hardy Williamson | 2.01 |
| 1 pot & hooks | to Jacob Boykin | 2.10 |
| 2 Chiars | to Stephen Boykin | .80 |
| 2 ditto | to Henry Lewis | .50 |
| 1 pears of Cotton Cards | to Ythel Dickorson | .75 |
| 1 pears of ditto ditto | to Jonathan Hinnant | .15 |
| 1 Earthen dish | to Hardy Williamson | .71 |
| 1 pitcher | to Bartley Deans | .66 |
| 1 pears of Wash Cards | to Hardy Boykin Junior | .36 |
| 1 Bole & Glas tumbler | to Thomas Williamson | .15 |
| 1 Coffey pot & Shugar | to Josiah Hinnant Junior | .50 |
| 1 pewter Bason & Water | to Josiah Davis | .30 |
| 1 pewter bason | to Hardy Boykin | 1.60 |
| ½ doz pewter plates & bason | to James Hinnant | 2.00 |
| ½ doz of ditto | to Kizziah Williamson | 2.50 |
| 1 pewter bason | to James Hinnant | .90 |
| ½ doz of pewter Spoons | to Hardy Boykin | .50 |
| | Cared over— | 24.84 |

(p.2)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | broat over— | 24.84 |
| 1 tin Cullinder | to Nathanel Moore | .25 |
| 1 tea kittle | to Hardy Williamson | .81 |
| 1 Small pot & hooks | to Thomas Williamson | .13 |
| 1 flax Wheat | to Hardy Boykin | 1.97 |
| 1 pare truses & backbone | to Josiah Davis | .40 |
| 1 lot of bees Wax | to Bartley Deans | .15 |
| 1 Churn | to Edward Davis | .20 |
| 1 Slay | to Hardy Boykin | .42 |
| 1 ditto | to Hardy Williamson | .21 |

*(Continued on page 17)*

*(Ann Williamson Estate Record, Continued from page 16)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Yr?/grn? Maer (Yearling or green Mare?) | to Kizziah Williamson | 31.00 |
| 1 ditto ditto | to Josiah Hinnant | 5.00 |
| 1 Colt | to Mark Rose | 5.00 |
| 1 bay horse & (hill?) | to Josiah Hinnant | 18.36 |
| the hier of negro Arch for 3 months | to Josiah Hinnant Junior | 8.30 |
| the hier of Rachel & (Peet or Pat) her child | to John Peelle | .50 |
| 1 pot | to Josiah Davis | .07 |
| 1 flower barel | to Jonathan Boykin | .45 |
| 2 barels of Corn by the (illeg.) | to Wm R previt (?) at 2$30p | 4.60 |
| the Residue 8 1/2 bushels | to Gilberd (Lewis?) | 3.50 |
| 1 fat yard | to Bartley Deans | .32 |
| 10 bushels of petaters | to Kizziah Williamson | 2.00 |
| 18 bushels — | to Thomas Williamson 18 ps | 3.24 |
| 1 petater (palch?) | to Kizziah Williamson | 3.00 |
| 5 barels of Corn by the Bar | to Thomas Horn 2 $26 ps | 11.30 |
| 5 of ditto ditto | to Thomas Williamson | 12.15 |
| 5 barels of ditto | to Kizziah Williamson | 12.50 |
| the Residue 6 barels 1 3/4 bushels | to Thomas Horn 2 $50 ps | 15.75 |
| 1 Top Stack & Shucks | to Thomas Horn | 7.99 |
| 1 lot of blades | to ditto ditto | 7.01 |
| 1 tub | to Joseph Williamson | .30 |
| 1 bucket & meal bag | to (Nannel More?) | .40 |
| 1 tin trunk | to Joseph Williamson | 1.10 |
| | Cared forth— | 186.67 |

(p.3)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Brought forour— | 186.67 |
| 1 lot of Rotten Corn | to Thomas Horn | 1.30 |
| 1 Come & Gimblet | to Jacob Boykin | .35 |
| 4 ¾ yards of Cloth | to Thomas Williamson 30cts/pr | 1.44 |
| 4 barels of Corn | to ditto ditto at 1$91/pr b | 7.66 |
| 2 Sheep Shears & pads | to Kizziah Williamson | .02 |
| 1 Coller & backbone | to ditto ditto | .26 |
| 3 baskets | to John Peelle | .05 |
| 1 Salt yard & Shoos | to Jacob Boykin | .22 |
| 1 Bonet & hat | to Thomas Boykin | .19 |
| 1 Silk hankerchief | to Thomas Williamson | .17 |
| 1 lot of Cloes | to Jacob Boykin | .37 |
| 1 lot of ditto | to ditto ditto | .33 |
| 1 lot of ditto | to ditto ditto | 1.25 |
| 1 lot of Iron | to ditto ditto | .08 |
| 61 ½ lb of Cotten | to Jethro Harison | 1.77 |
| 3 plank | to Jacob Boykin | .06 |
| 2 plane frames | to Stephen Boykin | .02 |
| 1 lot of flax | to Jethro Harison | .02 |
| | — | 202.25 |

Acompt of Sale of the property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 2th of March 1822 on acredit of Six Monts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Negro Gal Pat | to Eatman Flowers | 353.88 |
| the hier of Arch 3 Months | to Jesse Sullivent | 12.80 |
| the hier of Rachel | to Ford Taylor | 2.26 |

Acompt of the hier of Arch and Rachel the property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 24 of May 1822:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the negro Man Arch | to Thomas Williamson | 12.50 |
| the negro Woman Rachel | to Ford Taylor | 4.30 |
| | Cared over— | 587.99 |

*(Continued on page 18)*

(Ann Williamson Estate Record, continued from page 17)

(p.4)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Brot Over— | 587.99 |

Acompt of the hier of Arch and Rachel the property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 26 of August 1822 hierd out for three Monts on acredit of Six Monts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the Man Arch | to Ythel Dickorson | 9.00 |
| the negro Woman Rachel | to Ford Taylor | 3.00 |

Acompt of the hier of Arch and Rachel the property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 23 of November 1822 on acredit of Six Monts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the negro Man Arch | to Ythel Dickorson | 8.50 |
| the negro Woman Rachel | to Ford Taylor | 4.00 |

also hired out Arch and Rachel from the 23 of February 1823 until the 5 of March next for— — .52

Acompt of Sales of the property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 5 of March 1823 on acredit of Six Monts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Weading hoes | to Kizziah Williamson | .40 |
| 2 ditto ditto | to Hardy Williamson | .30 |
| 2 ditto ditto | to Jesse Peelle | .70 |
| 1 Grubing hoe | to Kizziah Williamson | .64 |
| 1 Slash hoe | to ditto ditto | .60 |
| 1 Cutter hoe | to Jacob Boykin | .41 |
| 1 Ax | to Thomas Boykin | .69 |
| 1 Auger | to Stephen Boykin | .52 |
| 1/4 part of Sythe | to Stephen Boykin | .11 |
| 1 Grubing hoe | to Hardy Boykin | .16 |
| 1 negro Man Arch | to Dempsey Harison | 506.00 |
| 1 Negro Woman Rachel | to Ford Taylor | 312.00 |
| | total amount of Sales | 1435.54 |

(p.5)

An Inventory of the personal property of Ann Williamson Des't taken the 20 of December 1821 with the interest Calculated until the present Day on the debts due here:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash at Intestator(?) death— | 6.00 |
| One note on John Watson for— | 136.90 |
| Interest on the above note from the 20 of disember 1814 until the present date is— | 57.49 |
| One note on James Perkins for— | 12.00 |
| Interest on the above note from the 5 of March 1813 until the present date is— | 6.33 |
| One Note on Joseph Williamson for— | 23.00 |
| Interest on the above note from the 25 of January 1815 until the present date is— | 9.52 ½ |
| One note on Jethro Harris for— | 2.72 ½ |
| Interest on ditto from the 9 of November 1820 until the prisent date is— | .17 ½ |
| One note on Bartley Deans for— | 3.88 |
| Interest on the above note from the 8 of April 1821 until the present date is— | .16 |
| Interest til the present date for— | 7.13 |
| One note on Owen (Schuent? Schwint?) interest & p(illeg.) | 8.00 |
| One due bill on Thomas Williamson for— | .84 |

Received of John Watson Exrs of Luke Collins Dis't the Sume of Seventy five dollars and nintey two Cents in full of Ann Williamson part of the Sale of Negro Jack third of August 1823 — 75.72

| | |
|---|---|
| the amount of Sales is | 1435.54 |
| (total) | $1785.61 ½ |

A Reduction of $476.40 1/2 as an over charge in the Acct of AW(?) and Inventory

**We Hate to Say Goodbye!**

**But**

**This is your last issue of Trees**

**Why not send your check for $20 to**
**WCGS**
**PO Box 802**
**Wilson NC 27894-0802**

**And Make Sure That You Keep On Getting Trees!**

## DEW—BARNES MILL

### Nash County Mill Records, 1782-1875, 1856 Folder, CR.069.928.3

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

Situation or Condition of the Mill site a cross Toisnot Swamp, near the County line, and whare there was Once a Mill built by Arthur and Abraim Dew—

The Land on the South side of said Swamp is own'd by Jesse Barnes, and on the North side of said Swamp the said Jesse Barnes owns said Land with the exception of the right of Fanny Hattens dower her natural life — And the said Fanny Hatten conveyed her right of the said dower to Arther Dew, and from Arthur Dew it fell to William Dew and from William Dew to the Heirs of said William Dew to it: Jesse Barnes and children ¼ part, John Dews Heirs ¼ part, Martha Simms Heirs ¼ part and Benjamin Farmer ¼ part — All of the above Heirs has agreed to convey or cause to be conveyed their rights to said dower unto the said Jesse Barnes when convenient

The said Jesse Barnes wishing to erect or establish a Mill at the above named site; we the underassigners do pray your Honorable court to grant an order to that effect—In duty bound we your petitioners &c

her
faney X haten
mark
his
haman x Man
mark
her
temperance x man
mark
Larry Dew
NATHAN Cook
his
Benjamin x Farmer
mark

On the reverse: Jesse Barnes To The Court
To the Honorable Court of Nash To be held 2nd Monday in August 1826

[Editor's note: The folder was labeled 1856; however, the date on the reverse of this document was 1826.]

## JOSEPH H. PAYNE ESTATE INVENTORY

### North Carolina State Archives, Edgecombe County Estates Records, 037.508.91

Inventory of the personal estate of the late Joseph H. Payne by Hardy Norwell Admr of Josheph H Payne Decd

Recd June 3rd 1869 the folowing Notes

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Note Vs Wilkerson S. Dunn for | | 10,96 |
| Int from February 25th 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Escum Evvett for | | $4,77 |
| Int from Jann 1st 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Charter Edwards for | | $5,88 |
| Interest from Janr 1st 1862 | | |
| 1 Note Vs Charles C Bennett for | | $15.40 |
| Int from 25 Feb 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Robert Bell for | | $3.41 |
| Int from Janr 1th 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Elias Sumlin for | | 5.45 |
| Int from 4 Decr 1861 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Thomas Christman | | 15.25 |
| Int from Janr 4th 1858 | Bad | |
| 1 Note Vs W S Duggan & W A Duggin | | 140.00 |
| Int from Janr 1st 1861 | Bad | |
| 1 Note Vs Alen Mosley for | | 15.50 |
| Int from July 8th 1859 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Wm Hales for | | 85.50 |
| Int from April 18th 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Isack Page for | | 9.61 |
| Int from 1st Janr 1861 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs S W Edwards for | | 32.91 |
| Int from Janr 1st 1862 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs Isack Page for | | 16.75 |
| Int from Feb 26th 1861 | Doubtful | |
| 1 Note Vs James Nowel for | | 6.09 |
| Int from Janr 1st 1862 | Bad | |
| 1 Note Vs Thomas Coals for | | $121,00 |
| Interest from 18th Apl 1862 | Bad | |
| 1 Note Vs Arter Evins for | | $125,00 |
| Int from 1 Janr 1861 | Bad | |
| With a credit May 5th 1861 | $23,00 | |
| 1 Note Vs Arter Evins for | | $1395.00 |
| Int from May 7th 1861 | Bad | |

Hardy Nowell Adm

March 19 – 1870

Inv Assets enter before me by Hardy Nowell

John Norfleet C
July — of 1870

Recorded Book No 4, Page 229
Fees 50¢ for inventory

[Editor's note: The status of these notes reflects the state of the economy. We know that some of those listed as "Bad" were deceased, and it is possible that all were.]

## WILLIAM BRIDGERS
### Hugh B. Johnston

William Bridgers, son of Briton Bridgers and wife Mary Rice, was born in 1778 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and died there in the last of 1820. About 1799 he married Mary Barnes, daughter of James and Julian Barnes. She shared in the property bequeathed in her father's will dated March 12, 1805,[1] and died in 1825.

In the Edgecombe County Census of 1810, William Bridgers was listed with himself 26-45, one male 10-16, four males under ten, one female under ten, one female 16-26, and seven slaves.[2] On October 23, 1813, William (x) Gardner mortgaged to Moses Baker and William Bridgers, for $701.50 owed by Gardner to John Horn, a tract of 500 acres on Gay's Branch (formerly owned by John Thomas) adjoining Joshua Lee, Thomas Barron, and Martin Thorne; witnessed by John Wilkinson and Dempsey Jenkins.[3] In 1817 Gardner gave Bridgers a deed to 250 acres adjoining Martin Thorne, for a payment of 281 shillings.[4]

On January 3, 1821, a public auction of the personal effects of the late William Bridgers was conducted by Reddick Barnes, and among the purchasers were Jonathan Thomas, Hartwell Williford, and Redmond Curl.[5] In February Court, 1821, his inventory was recorded by Reddick Barnes and included much household and farming equipment, including a waffle iron, safe, blowing horn, sword, riding chair, pit saw, and fifteen barrels and fifteen gallons of brandy.[6] On September 22, 1822, and January 8, 1823, his perishable estate was sold at auction by administrator John Mercer.[7] On February 22, 1823, the account current of the estate was examined at the dwelling house of Mary Bridgers by commissioners consisting of John Mercer, William Wilkins, Hardy Flowers, Joab P. Pitt, and Edwin Bullock: accounts due $1,176.96, sales $85.90 ½ , and $1,529.31, and hire of slaves $375.12½, less debts of $1,230, left a balance of $1,937.20.[8]

On December 31, 1825, Commissioners James Pender, Benjamin Sharp, Thomas Barron, and William Williams divided 1,142 acres of land left by the late William Bridgers; the eleven lots were of varying size and value, but were adjusted by money payments to give each heir the equivalent of $619.09:

Lot No. 1, William Bridgers, 63 acres adjoining David Williams, worth $1,000;
Lot No. 2, Mary Bridgers, 118¾ acres adjoining David Williams, Town Creek, and Williamson Branch, worth $550;
Lot No. 3, Sally Bridgers, 65 acres on Williamson Branch, worth $705;
Lot No. 4, Susan Bridgers, 65 acres adjoining Town Creek and No. 3, worth $675;
Lot No. 5, James Bridgers, 86¾ acres adjoining the peach orchard, north of Town Creek a little above the Old Fording Place, worth $700;
Lot No. 6, Briton Bridgers, 89 acres north of Town Creek near the Old Fording Place and bounded by David Williams (formerly Hardy Flowers) and a pond, worth $555;
Lot No. 7, Edwin Bridgers, 97½ acres north of Town Creek near the mouth of Cornfield Branch, William D. Petway, and the mouth of Mill Branch, worth $575;
Lot No. 8, John Bridgers, 80 acres adjoining Town Creek near the mouth of Mill Branch, Petway, and White, worth $575;
Lot No. 9, Reddick Bridgers, 115 acres adjoining White, Hardy Flowers, and William D. Petway, worth $518;
Lot No. 10, Willis Bridgers, 115 acres adjoining Hardy Flowers, Bailey, William White, and the south side of Mill Branch, worth $457; and
Lot No. 11, Elizabeth Bridgers, 247 acres (sold by John Horn to William Gardner and then to William Bridgers) adjoining Ely Robbins, Martin Thorn, Thomas Gill near the south side of the road, and Gardner, worth $500.[9]

On January 3, 1826, Joab P. Pitt, Benjamin Sharp, James Pender, and Thomas Barren divided the slaves of William Bridgers into eleven lots worth $313 each:
Lot No. 3, John Bridger received Luke, worth $460;
Lot No. 9, Brittain Bridger received Jerry, worth $250; and
Lot No. 11, James Bridger received Celia, worth $125.[10]

On January 3, 1826, the personal property of the late Mary Bridgers was sold by Joab P. Pitt who "cried the sale" for a total of $1,151.89, and most of the purchases were made by James Bridgers, John Bridgers, Briton Bridgers, Elizabeth Bridgers, and Reddick Bridgers.[11] Her inventory was recorded in February Court, 1826, by administrator Reddick Barnes.[12]

On February 26, 1827, Britton Bridgers was appointed guardian of Edwin, William, Sally, Mary, Elizabeth, Susan, and Willie Bridgers of Edgecombe County.[13] On January 3, 1829, David Williams, James Pender, Joab P. Pitt, Thomas Barron, and John Mercer divided the slaves of William Bridgers among the following heirs:
No. 1, Reddick Bridgers received Will, worth $325;
No. 2, Elizabeth Bridgers received Lewis, worth $350;
No. 3, Edwin Bridgers;
No. 4, Sally Bridgers;
No. 5, Polly Bridgers;
No. 6, Willie Bridgers;
No. 7, Susan Bridgers; and
No. 8, William Bridgers.[14]

On January 3, 1832, Joab P. Pitt, John Mercer, and James Barron allotted two shares worth $340 each from the common stock of slaves left in the William Bridgers estate: (1) Edwin Bridgers, and (2) Theophilus and Sally Atkinson.[15] On January 3, 1835, Joab P. Pitt, Mark Bennett, and John Mercer allotted to Polly Bridgers two slaves worth $525 from the slaves left by the late William Bridgers.[16]

Children of William and Mary (Barnes) Bridgers:

1. Britton Bridgers was born in 1800.
2. James Bridgers was born in 1802.
3. John Bridgers was born on March 16, 1803.
4. Reddick Barnes Bridgers was born in 1805. On December 27, 1831, he sold William D. Petway for $400 a tract of 115 acres north of Town Creek adjoining John Bridgers and said Petway; witnessed by John P. (x) Pitt.[17] On January 5, 1832, Thomas Thorne sold Reddick B. Bridgers for $400 a tract of 200 acres north of Little Swamp adjoining John W. Barnes and Frederick Robbins; witnessed by John W. (x) Barnes.[18]

*(Continued on page 21)*

(*William Bridgers, continued from page 20*)
On July 10, 1833, William Woodard sold Reddick B. Bridgers for $228.09 a tract of 220 acres on Little Swamp adjoining John W. Barnes; witnessed by John W. Barnes and James Tartt.[19] On December 24, 1838, Reddick B. Bridgers of Edgecombe County sold William Batts for $800 a tract of 420 acres on Little Swamp and Thorne's Mill Swamp adjoining Nathan Morris, Frederick Robbins, and David W. Barnes; witnessed by Willie J. Weaver.[20] On August 1, 1841, Reddick B. Bridgers of Noxubee County, Mississippi, appointed William D. Petway his attorney to collect money due from William Barnes, executor of Bryan Barnes; witnessed by Thomas Edmondson.[21] On May 19, 1830, he had married Martha Barnes of Edgecombe County, bonded by John Bridgers.

5. William Reddick Bridgers was born in 1807. On July 18, 1846, he sold John L. Bridgers for $475 a tract of 63 acres (inherited from his father) south of Williamson Branch adjoining Colonel David Williams, Britton Bridgers, and Peter P. Phillips; witnessed by William H. Moye and Joshua Wilkinson.[22]
6. Edwin Bridgers was born on October 1, 1809.
7. Elizabeth Bridgers was born in 1811.
8. Sally Bridgers was born in 1811.
9. Mary "Polly" Bridgers was born in 1812. On January 13, 1835, she married Joshua Wilkinson of Edgecombe County. On August 14, 1834, Mary Bridgers sold Theophilus Atkinson for $450 a tract of 118¾ acres north of Town Creek; witnessed by John Bridgers and Joseph Pender.[23]
10. Willie W. Bridgers was born in 1814 and was a carpenter by trade. On January 15, 1847, he enlisted for the War with Mexico under Captain William S. Duggan of the Edgecombe County Regiment, holding the rank of First Corporal, and was mustered out of service on July 28, 1848.[24]
11. Susan Bridgers was born in 1817. On January 19, 1841, she married Geraldus Shirley at the home of Colonel Joab P. Pitt. By a prenuptial agreement of the same date, Shirley guaranteed her the lifetime possession of 60 acres on Town Creek adjoining Peter Philips and Theophilus Atkinson, two slaves, and a bed and the bedclothing; witnessed by Joab P. Pitt and Charles G. Hunter.[25] On February 15, 1848, Susan Shirley of Edgecombe County sold Robert R. Bridgers for $500 the tract of 65 acres (inherited from her father) north of Town Creek adjoining Peter Philips; witnessed by John Wilkinson and Washington Barnes.[26]

End Notes:

1. Edgecombe County, Will Book D, p. 223.
2. Edgecombe County Census of 1810, in the National Archives.
3. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 15, p. 409.
4. Deed Book 17, p. 356.
5. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1820-1825, pp. 396/400.
6. Op. cit., p. 102.
7. Op. cit., pp. 592/594.
8. Op. cit., pp. 394/400.
9. Deed Book 18, p. 387.
10. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1826-1830, p. 15.
11. Op. cit., pp. 226/232.
12. Op. cit., p. 8
13. Minutes of the Edgecombe County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.
14. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1826-1830, p. 361.
15. Inventories, 1830-1836, p. 148.
16. Op. cit., p. 408.
17. Deed Book 20, p. 526.
18. Deed Book 20, p. 242.
19. Deed Book 21, p. 2.
20. Deed Book 22, p. 270.
21. Deed Book 22, p. 649.
22. Deed Book 25, p. 186.
23. Deed Book 21, p. 204.
24. *Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War with Mexico* (Raleigh, N. C., 1887), p. 21.
25. Deed Book 22, pp. 516 and 588.
26. Deed Book 24, p. 384.

## BENJAMIN RENTFROW OBITUARY

### *Wilson Times*, July 11, 1917

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

MR. BENJAMIN RENTFROW DEAD

Mr. Benjamin Rentfrow, a member of the Primitive Baptist church and a promising farmer of the Rock Ridge section, departed this life yesterday afternoon at 6 o'clock and was buried at Contentnea church this afternoon at 2 o'clock. He leaves a wife and several children to mourn his departure. The deceased had been sick quite a while, but bore his afflictions without a murmur. He was highly esteemed as a citizen and was a staunch member of his church. His funeral was conducted by Elder George Boswell. The attendance was a large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives.

Mr. Rentfrow was a promising farmer. He won the first prize in The Times corn contest some 12 years ago and raised on one acre 26 or 28 barrels of measured corn, if our memory serves us correctly.

[Editor's note: Benjamin Rentfrow, son of Mabry and Sena Adkison Renfrow, was born January 10, 1860. In 1880, Benjamin, age 20, farm worker lived in the Cross Roads Township household of his parents Mabry, age 63, farmer, and Seany, age 57.

Benj Rentfrow, age 22, married Sallie Etheridge, age 16, on April 2, 1882, at the home of Granbary Etheridge in Old Fields. John H. Rentfrow, Josiah Rentfrow, and Jane Raper were witnesses.

In 1900, Bennie Renfrow, farmer, born March 1860, married for 14 years to Sallie H., born June 1865, lived in Wilson Township. Sallie had had six births with four children living. Their children Willie A., born July 1890; Nettie, born November 1893; John, born January 1896; and James H., born January 1898; lived with them.

Benjamin lived in Oldfields Township at the time of his death.

*Sources: Death Certificate in Wilson County Register of Deeds, Wilson 1880 and 1900 Census, Marriages of Wilson County, North Carolina, 1855-1899*]

# ADAM IVEY, FORGOTTEN SETTLER OF WILSON COUNTY

Hugh Buckner Johnston

Adam Ivey probably came from the James River area of Virginia, perhaps from Princess Anne County. On October 23, 1754, he was granted by the agents of the Earl of Granville a tract of 485 acres in Edgecombe County north of "Ivey's Meadow" and adjoining Surveyor John Haywood's line.[1] The Chainbearers assisting with the survey were Joshua Lee and Peter Best. Subsequent records indicate that this land lay on or near the present Hominy Swamp and between Contentnea Creek and the City of Wilson.

The Adam Ivey Patent of October 23, 1754, ran from "Ivey's Meadow" N. 344 poles, W. 246 poles, S. 216 poles to John Haywood's line, along it E. 54 poles, S. 128 poles, and E. 192 poles to the first point. A surveyor's drawing accompanies a copy of the original land grant in the North Carolina Department of Archives.

Adam Ivey also patented 165 acres north of Aycock's Swamp adjoining John Weaver in Johnston County on May 9, 1757.[2] Since Dobbs County was formed the next year, and few records of this immediate area have survived prior to the formation of Wayne County in 1779, we can only be certain that the land lay no great distance south of Black Creek and five or six miles south of his main plantation north of Contentnea Creek.

On September 21, 1761, Joseph Daniel sold Francis Ivey for £7.10.0 a tract of 100 acres on both sides of Little Swamp; witnessed by Charles Williams and Joseph Simms.[3] On January 20, 1763, before moving to what is now Robeson County, Ivey sold this land to Jesse Lee for £20 Proclamation Money; witnessed by Adam (x) Ivey and Benjamin (B) Ivey.[4] By February 16, 1778, Lee had moved to Bladen County and sold it to William Dickinson, mentioning that another adjoining stream was the Schoolhouse Branch; witnessed by Nathan Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Josiah Daniel, and Joel Dickinson.[5]

Benjamin and Edey (x) Ivey, who had inherited his father's home plantation, were living in Bladen County by December 31, 1773, and sold Joseph Simms for £100 Proclamation Money 285 acres north of Contentnea Creek adjoining Lewis Ivey and Hominy Swamp; witnessed by Simon Simms and John Sillevent.[6] She and her brother-in-law Adam Ivey were both living in Robeson County when the Census of 1790 was taken. On March 2, 1775, Lewis Ivey of Bladen County sold Joseph Simms of Edgecombe County for £55 Proclamation Money the 200 acres adjoining Simms that had been bequeathed to him in the will of his father Adam Ivey; witnessed by Benjamin Simms and John Sillevent.[7] It is interesting to note that descendants of the Simms, Daniel, and Dickinson families still reside in the Wilson area.

Adam (A) Ivey made his will in Edgecombe (now Wilson) County on June 10, 1762, and it was probated in September Court, 1762: (1) son Francis Ivey, 5 shillings sterling. "I Have advanced to Him all Redy as much as my ability will afford." (2) son Adam Ivey, ditto; (3) daughter Elizabeth Ivey, side saddle, linen wheel, box iron, and £20 Proclamation Money; (4) daughter Sarah Ivey, £25 Proclamation Money; (5) daughter Martha Ivey, ditto "at her arriving att the age of twenty one years"; (6) son Lewis Ivey, "the old Plantation that I Bought of William Rogers Contaning" 200 acres, young horse, saddle, all cattle with half-moon in the ear, £50 Proclamation Money when twenty-one, and "one Riffeld Gunn"; (7) wife, not called by name, side saddle, linen wheel, wooling wheel, 600 pounds of "Neet Pork," 400 pounds of beef, 10 barrels of Indian Corn, and "the youse of my Dwelling House and as much Clard Ground unto my Loving Wife as She Shall tend During five years"; (8) son George Ivey, to receive from his mother a feather bed and its furniture and £50 Proclamation Money when he comes of age, plus and additional £20 at her decease; (9) daughter Mary Ivey, £25 Proclamation Money when twenty years of age; (10) son and executor Benjamin Ivey, "the Plantation I Now Dwell on" consisting of 285 acres; and (11) witnesses Robert Simms, Nathan Barnes, and Joseph Simms.[8]

Notes

1. Patent Book 11, p. 211.
2. Patent Book 14, p. 221.
3. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 00, p. 44.
4. Deed Book 1, p. 474.
5. Deed Book 3, p. 224.
6. Deed Book 2, p. 154.
7. Deed Book 3, p. 232.
8. North Carolina Department of Archives.

## WHEELER REAL ESTATE NOTICE

***Wilson Daily Times*, December 24, 1918**

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

**North Carolina—Wilson County In the Superior Court**

**Lula Wheeler, Administratrix of J. E. Wheeler**

**vs.**

Chas. Wheeler, Kinsey Wheeler, Henry Wheeler, Mattie Wheeler, Albert House and wife, Florry House, Mattie Huttleston and Husband, J. H. Huttleston, and Thomas Wheeler, ex parte.

The defendants, Chas. Wheeler, Kinsey Wheeler, Henry Wheeler, Mattie Wheeler, Albert House and wife, Florry House, Mattie Huttleston and husband, J. H. Huttleston, and Thomas Wheeler, above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Wilson county, North Carolina, to sell real estate for partition; and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the clerk of the Superior Court of said county on the 25th day of January, 1919, at the courthouse of said county, in Wilson, N. C., and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

J. D. BARDIN,
Clerk Superior Court.

This 21 day of December, 1918.

## MINUTES JANUARY 2007 MEETING

WCGS began the New Year with its first meeting on January 30th in the Wilson County Library. Sue Powell greeted the members and welcomed our guests. Minutes were accepted as printed in the last issue of Trees. Henry Powell gave the 2006 annual treasury report and passed around a copy for the group to read.

Sue reported that she is still in the process of working on Founding Families and reminded us that it is past time for dues to be paid. A pre-addressed envelope was included in the last newsletter for those who have not mailed their renewals. The 2007 calendar, focusing on Lucama, is available for purchase at ten dollars each. Having covered the county in past years' calendars, the next calendar will feature old family photographs, preferably those including their homes. Sue asked us to begin contributing photos for this collection and expressed her appreciation to Dick Roundtree for his help with the packaging and mailing of orders from our members.

There is some interest in an 1876 map of the town of Wilson which is available on the Internet. The map shows the names of the families and is priced at $100.00. There was discussion about the possible purchase, but there is no certainty that it is authentic.

Bobby Boykin reported finding a 1910 Booker T. Washington broadside of his visit to Wilson that was available for purchase. Feeling that it should be returned to Wilson, he contacted local persons, raised $2500.00, more than the required amount, purchased the broadside along with two tickets to the speech and a picture of the men who sponsored his visit. He gave the items and the remainder of the funds to the Round House to use to purchase other artifacts. Bobby surely made a wonderful effort to bring these items back home.

Programs for the coming months are:

February: Rob Crawford, "Historic Preservation"
March: Jay Peacock, "Civil War in Eastern North Carolina"
April: Betty McCain: "Wilson County Historical Association's WW II Project"
May: Peter Thompson: "Wales Genealogy"
June: Social

Peter Thompson is a native of Wales and will be traveling there soon. He made the gracious offer of doing free research for members while there!!

Among the announcements was the date of the Barton College book signing and reception for Dr. Jeff Broadwater on Wednesday, February 21, from 5-7 pm on the Barton Campus. His biography of George Mason is receiving very favorable reviews.

Betty McCain, former Secretary of Cultural Resources of North Carolina spoke on "Religious Immigration to North Carolina." Mrs. McCain praised and thanked us and the Historical Society for preserving our buildings and history.

She began her informative and entertaining talk with the quote " Blessed are the brief for they shall be invited again." She related that the first religious immigrants were Quakers who walked through the dismal swamp from Virginia to North Carolina around the Albemarle area in the 1600s. They did not come because of religious persecution and were not religious refugees. The Quakers were the only real organized religious group in North Carolina in the 17th century. Members reputedly traveled the rivers by canoes to recruit members. They gradually moved west, and, of course, folks of other faiths began to come into the area. The Anglican Church in Bath was begun in 1702.

Mrs. McCain also talked about North Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights, which was stolen from North Carolina during the Union occupation of Raleigh, and the efforts to bring it home.

Whatever her topic, Mrs. McCain keeps your interest, covers her subject and entertains while doing so.

We adjourned and enjoyed the remainder of the time comparing notes, reading the pass outs Sue had made available and visiting among the group.

*Frances W. Roberson*

## WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Local History Room awaits your research session. The collection of books and microfilm is very extensive. Plan to take advantage of our expanded research facility.

**NEW!!!** A special file cabinet has been added to house family history records in a secure manner. Those loose files already at the library are in the process of being filed. Your family records would be welcome additions. See Deborah Webb, Reference Librarian, to make your contribution.

The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking is available near the Broad Street Entrance.

## NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

*Lamms of Wilson and Nash Counties, N. C.*, Reese Ferrell, revised 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The newly organized Greene County Family Researchers plan to meet at 7 pm, on the third Thursday of each month at the Greene County Museum. Dues will be $20 for an individual or $25 for a family membership.

• North Carolina Genealogical Society and Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina are co-sponsoring a one day workshop in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The program, entitled "Stop and Smell the Roses: Get in Touch with Your Ancestors," is designed to help you "take the time to understand the life and times of the ancestors that we have discovered." The lecture topics are "Investigating Your Ancestors," "Rogues and Rascals: Divorced, Litigious, or Downright Criminal Relatives!" "Where Do I Go From Here?" and "Developing a Research Plan." The fee for members of either society will be $45, for non-members $55. For more information see: http://www.ncgenealogy.org or email info@ncgenealogy.org

• For those among us who are organized or want to be, there is a new web site which will catalog all your genealogy books, http://www.librarything.com. You can set up an account and enter up to 200 books for free. Because it is linked to the Library of Congress, Amazon.com, and sixty major libraries, once you enter the title, author, or ISBN, it fills in the rest of the information. It is in database format which enables you to download or print your book catalog.

*Trees of Wilson*
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

***Barnes, Bridgers, Clark, Dew, Ivey, Payne, Rentfrow, Wheeler, Williamson, Woodard***

**February 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $3.00. Shipping cost for maps is $3.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 7% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
Total of items ordered $_____ Shipping $_____ Sales Tax $_____ Total of Order $_____

☐ Check Enclosed

Ship to: _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ Please enroll me as a member of WCGS. **I enclose $20 for personal membership & subscription to *Trees*.** Please allow 3-5 weeks for shipping on all orders. **You may order books & membership through our website. http://www.wcgs.org.**

T786w


# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

March 2007 Volume 16 Number 3


## President's Message

How well do you know your ancestors? A better understanding of your ancestors' lives and environment changes them from names on a chart to individuals with daily lives shaped by conditions of their times.

Ask yourself questions and seek answers that will place your family in their location and time period.

What was a typical house like? (building materials, floor plan) Who built it? How did the houses stay warm and how well? What furniture did they have? How did they get light? (oil lamps, candles)

What did they eat? How did they cook it? What did they cook with?

What was their livelihood? How did they farm? What crops and animals did they raise? Where were the farm animals kept? Did they also have a cash income? How did they obtain goods that they did not grow or make themselves?

What clothes did they wear? How many clothes did a person have? How did they get their clothes? How did they get the fabric if homemade?

Where and how did they worship? What religious practices were common for the time and location?

What was the courtship process, the marriage process? What were the customs for a funeral and burial? What were the common practices surrounding a birth? What holidays were observed and how?

What political events took place during the time period and how did they affect your ancestors?

Who were their neighbors and how did they interact?

Be creative as you search for, read, and evaluate possible sources of information. Use the information to recreate the lifestyle of your ancestors.

*Sue Evans Powell*

## MARCH 27TH MEETING

### Wilson County Public Library Assembly Room 7:00 PM

Please join us for our regular meeting and learn more about eastern North Carolina's history and the impact that it had on our ancestors in this area.

Our speaker will be John R. Peacock, III, Ph.D., who will speak on "The Civil War in Eastern North Carolina." Those who lived in Wilson County during the war were keenly interested in events that happened in the east and concerned about what impact they might have on their lives.

Dr. Peacock, a Wilson resident, currently teaches classes in American history, western civilization, and North Carolina history and geography at Nash Community College. He received his Ph.D. in History from Louisiana State University.

We look forward to seeing you on the 27th and learning (or reviewing) the war activities in eastern North Carolina while we consider how they affected our ancestors' lives.

Programs for the coming months are:

April: Betty McCain, "Wilson County Historical Association's WWII Project"

May: Peter Thompson, a native of Wales, "Wales and Welch genealogy"

June: Social

September: Ray King, subject to be announced

October: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees*.

Camp Nichols Hospital
Lynchburg, Va.
Aug. 15th, 1864

Mrs. Mollie J. Edwards
Joyner's Deport, N. C.
Care of W. W. Batts, Esq.

Dear and Loving Sister,

It was a joyful heart that I had when I first looked at your letter and found it was from you, but, alas, before I had finished it, there was quite a change in my heart. My joy was turned into sorrow. The sad news of my ever dear Brother Henry was quite heart-rending to me. It seemed as if myself was one left almost desolate of kindred and friends. Oh, Sister, I can't tell, neither can I write, my awful and most miserable feelings. I can imaginarily see poor Henry's very features and form. Dear Sister, just to think of the pleasure and enjoyment myself and Henry have had together. Oh, can it be possible that Henry is no more! Well, Mollie, we have to undergo all such trials and troubles in this sinful world, so we must look to the future and try and cast off all past troubles and be content with our lot, let it be good or bad. Mollie, I hope the good Lord will provide for you and protect you and your little ones and enable us all to meet again and pass off the balance of our days in peace and tranquility. Dear Mollie, this leaves me in tolerable good health, except a pain

*(continued on page 26)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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*(Woodard Letters, continued from page 25)*

and weakness in my spine. I sincerely hope this may reach your ever loving hand and find you and your loving little ones and all the rest of the family, both white and black, in good health and doing well. Give my love to all, and give my respects to all enquiring friends. Mollie, we have not had any rain here at Lynchburg to do any good since I have been here, until yesterday, and that was quite a light shower indeed. Your letter came to hand today, also Bill's and Sister Margaret's at the same time. Dear Mollie, you must write often. I can't tell how long I may remain at this place. I may stay a month, or I may not stay a week. I will close. Write soon. Your affectionate and loving Brother: to his Sister, M. J. Edwards.

Bun

Oct. the 18th,
1864

Dear Sister Mollie,

I once more take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am quite well, hoping this may reach your ever loving hand and find you and all the family in the best of health. Dear Sister, it has been a long time since I have written to you, but I hope you will not think hard of me, as you know my love and sympathy for you and your dear little ones will always remain in my breast. Mollie, I hope you may keep in good heart and we, if life last, be spared to meet once more to part no more on this earth until parted by the power of the All-wise and Supreme Being, who made and created all things after the counsel of His own good will and pleasure. Dear Sister, I haven't any news of importance to write. We have been in line of battle for the last four or five days, but haven't got in any engagements yet, and I hope never will anymore. I would like so very well to go home to see you all, but it don't look like there will ever be any chance of doing so. Sometimes, I think if I was to go home it would be no pleasure to me, since I heard of the death of my loving brother-in-law, whom I esteemed so highly. Dear Sister, I hope we will meet again sometime. I will close. As ever your most loving and affectionate brother. Write soon.

BUN

## JOHN F. PROCTOR OBITUARY

### *Zion's Landmark,* November 1, 1887

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

This excellent young man, the son of H. B. and sister Proctor, was born Sep. 11th, 1858, and died Dec. 17 1886.

He was the youngest child of his parents, and living with us and was very kind and helpful to us, which made it the harder for us to part with him.

He was caught in a cotton gin, and his body so broken and mangled that he did not live but a few hours.

He said if he was saved it was by grace. On Sunday night before he died he said to me, if I could tell all the dreams I have had of late you would want me to join the church, after talking on the subject of religion all that night as long as he sat up.

He enjoyed the Association which met at Mill Branch, and heard all the preaching, and said when such people preach as preached there it was worth going to hear, and named some of his favorite preachers, Elders Robeson, Pitt, A. J. Moore, Rowe, Gold and Woodard.

John was a good young man and beloved by those that knew him.

H. B. Proctor.

# JOHN BARNES' ESTATE INVENTORY—1830

## North Carolina State Archives
## Wayne County Estates Records

An Inventory of the property of John Barnes Dec'd taken the 2nd day of October 1830 by Jonathan Barnes his admr

Cash in hand four hundred ninety eight dollars and thirty nine cents

Sfredit [ ? ] notes

One note against William Bardin for the sum of fifty two Dollars sixty two cents dated 27th febry 1830
One note against Hardy Horn for seventy Dollars due the 12th April 1827
One do against do for twenty five Dollars due 17th April 1826
One do against do for thirty five dollars due 15th decm 1826
One note against Ephraim Bass for three dollars thirty one ½ cents due 9th January 1827
One note against Cullen Hooks for Eight dollars fifty cents due 5th January 1826
One note on Sollomon Bradbery and Jacob Hooks security for fifteen Hundred and fourteen Dollars due 9th April 1829
One note on Jacob Hooks for thirty three dollars due 3rd April 1827
One note on do for forty three dollars forty one cents due 6th decr 1825
One note on John Neusom and Britton Daniel for three dollars and fifty cents due 14th September 1826
One note on Willie Rountree for thirty dollars fifty seven cents due first March 1830
One note on Willian Horn for ten dollars twenty two cents due 20th Decm 1828
One note on Moses Farmer three dollars thirty two cents due 9th novem 1826
One note on Caleb Hollowell for Eighteen dollars twelve cents due 18th November 1829
One note on Norfleet Newsom & James Aycock for three hundred forty two dollars and fareight cents due September 1826
One note on Sarah Fulghum for Eighty one cents due 30th June 1830
One note on William Dickenson & William Bardin for sixty five dollars due 19th may 1828 cr for forty dollars 2nd Octr 1828

Despert notes

One note on Godfrey Stansel for one Hundred four dollars and ninety cents due 14th November 1825
One note on Simon Aycock for thirteen dollars forty seven ½ cents due 30th march 1830
One do on do for forty five dollars due 17th Septr 1820 cr on the same one dollar 17 ½ cents 15th January 1822
One note on Godfrey Stansel & Cullen Hooks for twenty nine dollars 15 cents due 13th may 1829
One note on Michael Peacock & William Dickerson for Eleven dollars seventy five cents due 29th Aprl 1823
One note on Asael Farmer for one hundred nine dollars and twenty cents due 24th march 1821 cr on do for four dollars thirty seven ½ cents 20th April 1821
One note on Thomas Persons & James Mince for one Hundred twenty five dollars and fifty one cents due 21st Novem 1828
One note on John Gifford & John Jones for Eleven dollars twenty cents due 10th June 1820
One note on do & Cullen Hooks for ten dollars Eighteen cents due 24th June 1820
On do on do for seven dollars twenty cents due 4th march 1827
One do on do & Sam Watson for Eleven dollars due 25th Decr 1822
One note on Lucy Vick for Eleven dollars fifty cents due 25th December 1829
One note on Jesse Vick for three dollars and fifty cents due 1st Febuary 1828
One note on William Hollowell for one Hundred seventy one dollars due 5th november 1821 cr on the same for seventy six dollars the 17th december 1822
One note Elizabeth Hedgepeth for sixteen dollars seventy five cents due 6th november 1828
One note on Reddick Jonson for two dollars twenty five cents due 8th August 1828
One note on Samuel Woodard for twenty four dollars 6 cents due 26th June 1825
One note on Jacob Ellis for six dollars due 11th September 1824
One note on Thomas Durdino for fifteen dollars 5 cents due 15th July 1826
One note of Jacob Fulghum for twenty four dollars sixty nine cents due 27th Febry 1830
One note on Reuben Mundin for twenty four dollars due 3rd march 1820
One note on William Grimes for thirty two dollars Eighty three cents due the 23rd Febry 1826
One note on Needham Howell for sixty five dollars sixty five cents due 24th Febry 1821
One note on Samuel Barnes & Jesse Aycock for five dollars 11 cents due 29th April 1823
One note on Jonathan Durdino for seventy six dollars forty four cents due 17th August 1820
One note on Lewis Artis for three dollars Eighty cents due 25th June 1830
One note on Richard Artis for ten dollars 5 cents due 9th June 1830
One note on Elisha Amason & Levi Amason for fifty dollars due 5th febry 1828

*(Continued on page 28)*

*(**John Barnes Inventory**, continued from page 27)*

One note on Allan Taylor for two dollars forty cents due 16th Febry 1822
One note on John Neusom for three dollars twenty cents due 17th April 1830
One note on Mealy Pearce for twenty dollars due 26th Septr 1829
One note on Daniel Dickenson for fifteen dollars seventy five cents due 1st January 1821
One note on Joel Newsom for thirty three dollars 15 cents due 23rd septr 1820
One note on Noah Franklin for seven dollars twenty cents due 6th novm 1822
One note on Jesse Vick for twenty two dollars ninty six cents due 23rd may 1829 cr on the same for nine dollars forty cents
One note on Jacob Barnes for fifty dollars due the 23rd november 1824 two credits on said note one cr the 4th January 1825 for thirty dollars the other cr the 14th december 1829 fore four dollars
One note on Phillip B. Raiford for seventy six dollars due the 17th december 1822
Theophelus T Simms ctr Rect. For the following note as despert
One note on Jesse Boswell for twenty seven dollars 21 cents due 17th April 1825
One note on do for six dollars due 16th April 1825
One note on Burwell Martin for twenty four dollars 35 cents due 16th May 1820
One on Nathl Moor for sixteen dollars thuenty five cents due 27th July 1820 with a credit of Eight dollars thirty two ½ cents 27th July 1820

Gisbon Gerreld const Rect for the following notes as despert
One note on Jesse Lowe for Eighty three dollars due 28th nov 1825 cr on the same for twenty dollrs 20th July 1826 one other credit for twenty two dollars Eighty cents the 4th January 1830

Despert Book Accounts
Isaac Bass act $4.15
Jesse Vick $29.79
Dicson Simmons $22.30

12 weedding hoes
5 grubing Hoes
lot of iron
lot of old tools
lot of lumber
5 Axes
25 plough Hoes
1 Iron wedge
7 sives
3 iron whoops and nails
1 log chain
1 tenon saw
1 hand saw
1 crose & stock
1 broken saw compos augur & file
1 small chain
1 augur & bit
1 foot adds
4 plains
1 Jointer
65# bar iron
1 sithe
1 Gun barrel
6 plough fraims
38 head of cattle
2 stills
35 cider Barrels
4 hogs
6 Jugs
some Honey
2 jars
6 bee Hives
1 lot of truss whoops
250# beacon
lot fat gords
3 soap troughs
3 cask
75# hogs lard
2 raw hides
13 gums
1 loom an quill wheel
lot of staves
1 pair of worping bars
1 side saddle
1 flax wheel
1 pair stilyards
3 fat stands
5 meal sives
1 morter
gig & harness
1 grindstone
2 pine tables
1 tin bucket
1 coffe mill
27 bakings tins
6 Earthen bowls
2 bread Baskets
2 pitchers
1 mug
1 lot of cups & sacsers
½ dosen spoons
1 cake bees wax
1 bible
1 arithmetiek
1 dictionary
1 Hymn book and testament
10 Earthen plates
2 waters
½ dozen cops & sausers
2 plats
salt setter and grater
3 tumblers
3 decanters
1 bottle and candle mate
1 set china ware
8 knives & 10 forks
1 ink stand
½ doz puter plates
coffee pot & sissors
2 Earthen dishes
2 pewter basons
7 pewter dishes
1 supe spoon
1 patent clock
1 bridle bit
1 earthen bowl
1 coat brush
9 Earthen plaits
2 tin buckets and straner
1 tea pot
1 lot broken glasses
1 pair sad irons
3 books
1 lot of fials and canister
2 beds steds and furniture
1 bed & furniture
1 pine chest

*(Continued on page 29)*

*(John Barnes inventory, continued from page 28)*

1 walnut desk
½ doz setting chairs
1 drouing knife
3 pair kniting needles
shears
1 pr spretickles and case
3 head sheep
1 bason
20 had geese
1 chesel
1 pr cumperses and saw set
1 pocket book
1 Rasor & utensils
1 safe churn and chamberpot
119 Head of hogs
5 head of Horses

Jonathan Barnes

[On the reverse:] Jn°. Barnes dec[d] Inventory. Recorded Nov. Co. 1830

An addishonable Inventory of the property of John Barnes Decd taken the 19th of febuary 1831 by Jonathan Barnes his admr

Cash in hand $13.50 cents
One account on William Johnson $20
Ninty too barrels & 3 bushels of corn
Lot of sholnes[?]
4 blade stacks fodder the picking of 4 fields
Eleven head of cattle
One Mare
Too bridles
3 pare cart wheels & 2 bodys
1 cary log
3 woollen wheels
2 baskets
lot of Junaper
1 pot & oven
2 skilets
2 pots & hooks
2 pot racks
fire dogs
1 pot & hooks
1 pare of flesh forkes
loom gear
1 pan handle
1 pan & spider
3 trays
one hundred & eighty one pounds of bacon
one fat hog
lot goards
30 head hogs
lot salt pork
one ax
lot of cotton
4 top stacks
2 hats
1 pare cards
1 barrel

[on the reverse:] additional inventory of Jn°. Barnes. Recorded Feby Co 1831

addishonable inventory of the property of John Barnes Decd Taken the 15th of August 1831

five chears
two troves
two pare of cards
one peace of Brass
one lot of Junaper
one hundred & thirteen pounds of Bacon
the last runing mark of hogs
the last runing mark of sheep
one grub hoe
the Balance of property

[on the reverse:] Jn°. Barnes ad. Inventory, Recorded Aug. Co. 1831, inventory of John Barnes Decd. 15th of August 1831

addishonable inventory of the State of John Barnes Decmber the 18th 1831

despert accounts
one act. on Henry Stevens seven dollars & fifty cents
one on Thomas Davis for five dollars
one on David Daniel one dollar & fifty cents
one on Benjamon flowers two dollars
one on Robert Eatmon five dollars
one on Josiah Davis for fore dollars

[on the reverse:] Jn°. Barnes additionl Inventory, Recorded Aug Co 1832

[Editor's note: The four separate parts of this document were each written as a single paragraph. The format was changed to aid the reader. It was not clear, from the original, when the term "despert notes" was used if it applied to all of the following notes. Spelling was retained as in the original and transcribed as carefully as possible.

John Barnes was married to Mary Newsom, and his estate records gave his death date as August 12, 1830, and named his children as Jonathan, Burket, Bunyan, Rebecca, wife of Nathan Davis, Christian (a minor), and William (a minor). The estate records of Mary Newsom Barnes named her children as Jonathan, William N., Bunyan, Burkett, Penelope Daniel Martin, and Rebecca Davis. Mary wrote her will September 26, 1854, and it was recorded in Wayne County August Court 1856. In it, she left all of her possessions to the family of her daughter Penelope Martin. An abstract of one of the documents in Mary Barnes estate file was included in the April 1993 issue of *Trees of Wilson.* This document, written June 22, 1870, gave a detailed description of the families of Mary's deceased children Bunyan, Burkett, Penelope, and Rebecca, and named her living sons Jonathan and William.]

## GIDEON STRICKLAND VS ISAAC STRICKLAND

**North Carolina State Archives**
**Nash County Mill Records, 1782-1875, CR069.928.3**
**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas & Quarter
Nash County Session 1834

The Petition of Gideon Strickland pltff
vs
Isaac Strickland deft

To the worshipful County Court of Nash

Humbly complaining sheweth unto your worships your petitioner the aforesaid Gideon that he is owner of a tract of land lying in the county of Nash on the south side of Tossnot swamp and extending along said swamp from a point below a mill owned by the defendant up said swamp for a mile or more beyond said mill, thence southwardly and by various courses to the beginning—that said tract was devised to him by his father by will, excepting out of the same six acres for the use of the mill which the testator devised to another & which by subsequest transfers is now become the property of the defendant Isaac—

Your petitioner sheweth that the said six acres have never been located but it is obvious that the same were intended to be given to the owner of the mill to be cut off at such place as was most advantageous for the mill and in order that the owner thereof might not trespass on the land of your petitioner, but notwithstanding this, and the willingness of your petitioner that the same may be located for the purpose aforesaid, yet the defendant hath so raised his water, as to overflow and drawn a large body of your petitioners best land lying on said swamp amounting to as much as thirty acres or more exclusive of the six excepted out of your petitioners tract as aforesaid; by reason of which your petitioner is endamaged in his freehold in the yearly sum of one hundred dollars—Therefore he prays that your worships write direct the sheriff to summon a jury according to the provisions of the act of 1809 chap. 15 (Haywood Manual) to assess the damages which he ought annually to receive from the defendant by reason of the overflowing of your petitioners land as aforesaid, and that he may have judgment for the same and your petitioner will ever pray &c

B J Moore for Petr.

On the reverse: N°. 07, Gideon Strickland vs Isaac Strickland, Pet$^{n}$. Overflowing by Mill—to Feby 1834, Jno Moore. To be served 10 days before court.

-.-.-.-.-

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas & Quarter
Nash County Sessions 1834
To the Sheriff of Nash County

Greeting you are herby Commanded to Summans Isaac Strickland if to be found in your County personally to be and appear at our next County Court to be held for the County of Nash at the Court House in Nashville on the 2$^{nd}$ Monday in February next then and there to Answer unto Gideon Strickland by a petition filed against him by Said Gideon, a Copy of which is herewith Sent and this you Shall in no wise omit Witness
Arthur Whitfield Clerk of Nash County Court at office in Nashville this 16$^{th}$ of January 1834

A. Whitfield CCC

On the reverse: To Isaac Strickland, Gideon Strickland vs Isaac Strickland, Sp$^{a}$ for Deft, To Feb Term 1834, Executed 5$^{th}$ of febuay 1834 by delivering Isaac Stricklin a copy of the within Contents, Sam$^{l}$. W. W. Vick Shff, by Josiah Vick, D

-.-.-.-.-

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions
County of Nash February Term 1834

The answer of Isaac Strickland to the petition exhibited against him in this Court by Gideon Strickland

This Defendant saving and reserving now & at all times hereafter the full benefit of exception to the many errors & insufficiencies in said Petition contained, for answer to so much thereof as he is advised it is material he should answer, answering he sayeth,--that it is true that he is the owner of a mill on Tossnot swamp, and that the Petitioner is as this Defendant believes the owner of a tract of land adjoining thereto,--that the mill owned as aforesaid by this defendant, was erected as he

*(Continued on Page 31)*

*(**Strickland vs Strickland,** continued from page 30)*
understands & believes more than 100 years since, and has continually remained standing & in operation since that time except at occasional intervals when the dam might have been destroyed by high water. That for many years after its erection and especially during the life of Mark Strickland (from whom the Petitioner claims title to the land mentioned in his Petition), and at his death, the water in the pond was two or three feet higher than it now is, or has been, since this defendant became the owner of said mill as he understands and believes, & consequently covered more land than is now covered, that it is wholly untrue that this defendant has at any time raised the water in the pond, or that the Petitioner has been injured by any act or thing done or performed by this defendant.

This Defendant further answering saith that he believes it to be true that the Petitioner devised his title to the land before mentioned under the will of Mark Strickland deceased and that the devise is in substance as stated in the petition, but he denies that the said devise is to understood or construed to give to the Petitioner any part of the land covered by the water of the pond.—After the devise to the Petitioner as aforesaid the Testator by a subsequent clause writes as follows—"I give to my beloved wife Martha Strickland for her support during her life or widowhood half the profits of the land & mill whereon I now live" and the other half he gives to his son Mark Strickland to be enjoyed immediately, and to the said Mark he gives the whole of the said land & mill on the death or marriage of the said Martha, it will be recollected that at the death of the Testator & for a long time before, and at the making of his will, the mill was standing and in full operation and as this Defendant believes covered more land than it does at this time, and certainly covered the same land which it now does.—and this Defendant submits that it was the intention of the Testator that his widow & his son Mark should hold, use & enjoy the said mill in the same manner & to the same extent that it had been held, used & enjoyed by himself, and that he did not intend that the devise to the Petitioner should include any part of the land then covered by the Mill pond—The six acres excepted out of the devise to the Petitioner this Defendant believes was contemplated by the Testator to be laid out around the mill house for the ordinary milling privileges to furnish a residence for the miller, with the necessary enclosures for a field & garden and for wood to repair the house & dam and he insists that such exception cannot be construed to refer to land then covered by the mill pond—but it was his intention that all the land which the pond covered should pass with the mill to his wife & son, and this defendant is advised that as such intention contravenes no rule of law, the said devises will by this Court be construed according thereto

This Defendant further answering saith that the said Testator died in the year 1810 as he believes, and that since that time the water in the pond of which the Petitioner complains, has been always as high as it now is, and covered the same land, & during all that time as this defendant believes the Petitioner has been the owner of the adjoining tract devised to him as aforesaid, yet until the filing of this Petition, no step has been taken to establish a right to the land so covered, or to recover damages from any owner of the mill for any injury sustained by reason of overflowing the same, and this defendant now claims & insists on every right & advantage to which such acquiescence on the part of the Petitioner may entitle him.

This Defendant further saith that at the death of <u>of</u> said Mark, (the Testator) he was the owner of much more land on the same side of said swamp than has been given to the petitioner, and that all his land so owned was in one tract, and this defendant believes that under the devise aforesaid of five hundred acres, the Petitioner now holds six or seven hundred acres and that at least he now holds the full number of acres devised to him, independently of that now claimed.

This Defendant is advised that as his title to the mill is admitted by the Petitioner, it is not necessary that he should particularly set forth the same, but he saith that he deduces his title by regular & legal conveyances in fee simple from the said Mark the younger the devise aforesaid, who at the death of his Mother the said Martha became the sole owner of the said land & mill, and that he has such deeds of conveyance ready to exhibit whenever required so to do, & this Defendant prays that the said deeds & the will of the said Mark the Elder which is on file in the office of this Court, may be taken as part of this answer.

This defendant denies the right of the Petitioner in the premisses in every part, and prays hence to be desmisses with his costs, in this behalf most wrongfully sustained -

Will Plummer
For Petitioner [sic.]

- - - -

State of North Carolina
Nash County

Isaac Strickland maketh oath that the several matters of fact set forth in this answer as of his own knowledge are true, those not stated to be of his own knowledge he believes to be true.

Isaac Strickland

Sworn to & subscribed before me
The 12th day of Feby 1834 in open court
A. Whitfield CCC

On the reverse: Gideon Strickland vs Isaac Strickland, Answer of Deft.

## JOSHUA AYCOCK ET AL VS PETER L. BARNES ET AL
### Arthur Evans Estates Records, North Carolina State Archives

Superior Court - Wilson County
Joshua Aycock, Charity Aycock & Mary I. Aycock, infants by their guardian Wm. N. Barnes plaintiffs

vs

Peter L. Barnes, Mary Barnes, Pennina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes, Jinnett Holland & wife Susan, Elizabeth Barnes, Bennett Barnes, Administrator of Nancy Barnes, Rebecca F. Evans Administratrix of Arthur Evans, & Rufus Barnes defendants

The complaint of the above named plaintiffs shows to this court

1. That at February Session 1860 of the Court of Pleas & Quarters Sessions of the County of Wayne, one Benjamin Barnes was appointed Guardian of the plaintiffs & entered into bond in the penalty of $1000 with the defendants Jinnett Holland & Rufus Barnes as sureties.
2. That the said Benjamin Barnes as Guardian of the plaintiffs, in the month of August 1860 or about that time, received from James Aycock, the administrator of Joshua Aycock, who was the father of the plaintiffs, by decree of the County Court of Wayne, under a petition filed for settlement, the sum of $319 55/100. which was the share of the plaintiffs as next of kin of their father.
3. That said Benjamin Barnes made no report or return as guardian of the estate of plaintiffs which came into his hands.
4. That the said Benjamin Barnes did not renew his bond or guardianship of the plaintiffs.
5. That the sureties to his said guardian bond, the defendants, Jinnett Holland & Rufus Barnes are insolvent & nothing can be made out of them.
6. That the said Benjamin Barnes died intestate in the year 1861 & at January Sessions 1862 of the County Court of Wilson, letters of administration on his estate were granted to the defendant, Peter L. Barnes, who entered into bond in the penalty of $14000 with the defendants Mary Barnes, Pennina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes & Nancy Barnes & Arthur Evans sureties.
7. That soon thereafter, the said Nancy Barnes died intestate & the defendant, Burnett Barnes, was duly appointed her administrator.
8. That subsequently, the said Arthur Evans died intestate & the defendant Rebecca F. Evans, was duly appointed his administratrix.
9. That the said Benjamin Barnes left personal estate which went into the hands of the defendant, Peter L Barnes, as his administrator - the value of which & the disposition thereof, the plaintiffs are not advised, nor are they informed whether the same was sufficient to pay the debts of the said Benjamin Barnes, including the sum due to the plaintiffs.
10. That said Benjamin Barnes died seized & possessed of a tract of land in Wilson County, on which he resided at the time of his death, containing about 1000 acres, adjoining the lands of Thomas Bass, Calvin Atkinson & others.
11. That the said Benjamin Barnes left as his next of kin & heirs at law — his children, the defendants, Peter L. Barnes, Mary Barnes, Pennina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes, Susan Holland wife of defendant, Jinnett Holland, & Elizabeth Barnes, and his daughter, Nancy Barnes, & the plaintiffs, who are the children of Martha Aycock, a daughter of said Benjamin, who died intestate before her father.
12. That said Nancy Barnes died intestate after her father, without issue, leaving as her heirs, the defendants, Peter L. Barnes, Mary Barnes, Pennina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes, Susan Holland, Elizabeth Barnes, who are her brother & sisters & the plaintiffs, who are her nephew and nieces.
13. That soon after the death of said Benjamin Barnes, his said lands, under a petition filed for that purpose, in the county court of Wilson County, were divided among his heirs above named & a share was allotted to the plaintiffs & the several heirs took possession of the shares allotted to them.
14. That the defendant Peter L. Barnes, is insolvent, & that he & the sureties to his said bond who are heirs & next of kin of the said Benjamin are possessed of no property except the land descended to them as aforesaid.
15. The plaintiffs ask that an account may be stated of the amount due to them from the said Benjamin Barnes as their guardian & that an account may be stated of the estate of the said Benjamin Barnes in the hands of the defendant, Peter L. Barnes as his administrator.

Wherefore the plaintiffs demand judgment that the defendants account — that plaintiffs may have judgment for the amount which may be due them from the said Benjamin Barnes as their guardian - & that if there be a balance of the personal estate of the said Benjamin in the hands of the defendant, Peter L. Barnes, that they may have judgment for their share - and if there be no personal estate of the said Benjamin out of which the plaintiffs can be paid, that the real estate aforesaid descended to the defendants named, be adjudged to be sold for that purpose. That plaintiffs may have such other judgments as the nature of their case may require & that they have judgment for costs &c

Wm. T. Dortch Attn for pltffs

*(Continued on page 33)*

*(**Aycock vs Barnes,** continued from page 32)*

Superior Court - Wilson County

Joshua Aycock, Charity Aycock & Mary I Aycock plaintiffs

vs

Peter L Barnes, Mary Barnes, Pennina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes, Jinnett Holland & wife Susan, Elizabeth Barnes, Bennett Barnes administrator of Nancy Barnes, Rebecca F. Evans adminx of Arthur Evans & Rufus Barnes defts

Notice is given that an action has been commenced in this court upon a complaint of the above named plaintiffs againstthe above named defendants to subject the real estate of which Benjamin Barnes died seized & possessed, to the payment of the demands of the plaintiffs - said real estate being situate in this county, & being the same on which the said Benjamin Barnes resided at his death, containing about one thousand acres, adjoining the lands of Thomas Bass, Calvin Atkinson & others & which was divided among the heirs of said Benjamin Barnes after his death, June 6th, 1872

Wm T. Dortch arty
for pltffs

_ _ _ _

Superior Court, Wilson County

Joshua Aycock and others Pltffs

vs,

Peter L. Barnes & others Defts.

The defendants Mary Barnes, Penina Barnes, Patience Barnes, Barsheba Barnes, Jinnett Holland & wife Susan Holland, Elizabeth Barnes answering the complaint herein,

1. That as to allegations I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, it is true.
2. That as to allegation IX they admit that Benja. Barnes left personal property which went into the hands of his administrator the deft Peter L. Barnes and allege that there was more than a sufficient amount of said property in the hands of the said administrator to pay all of the debts of the said Benja Barnes including the debt due to the pltffs. as will more fully appear by reference to the account of the said administrator rendered before the clerk of this court.
3. Allegation X admitted by defts

IV. That allegation XI is true except as to the death of Martha Aycock which is denied & alleged that she should have been made a party to this action.

5. The defts admit allegations XII & XIII.
6. The defts deny the insolvency of Peter L. Barnes and admit their own insolvency.
7. The defts above named allege that they are advised that the lands of Benja Barnes are not liable for the debts until his personal estate is exhausted.

Wherefore they demand judgt. that so much of the pltffs judgt demanded as relates to the said land be denied & that they have their cost &c.

H. G. Connor
Atts for defts above
named.

_ _ _ _

North Carolina
Wayne County

I Geo Jno Robinson Clerk of the Superior Court of Wayne County and Ex oficio Judge of Probate do hereby certify that upon examining the records in my office I find that in 1860 upon a petition filed in the County Court in form of Joshua Aycock & others against James Aycock adm of Joshua Aycock decd for a settlement that Benj Aycock then Clerk of the County Court & to whom this case was referred to state an account & report that he found due the petitioners Aug 20th 1860 the sum of Three hundred & Nineteen Dollars and fifty-five cents

In Witness whereof I have
set my hand and seal
of office this March 1st 1872
Geo Jno Robinson
CSC & Ex officio Judge of Probate

*(Continued on page 34)*

*(Aycock vs Barnes, continued from page 33)*

Superior Court - Wilson County
Fall Term 1873

Joshua Aycock & others
Pltffs
vs.
Peter L. Barnes & others
Defts

This case coming on to be heard — it is considered & adjudged that the amount due the plaintiffs is six hundred & eighty one 54/100 dollars, of which $319 55/100 is principal money & carries interest from the first day of this term until paid.

And it further appearing that the defendant, Peter L. Barnes, & the sureties to his bond as administrator of the said Benjamin Barnes, are insolvent, it is adjudged that the lands which descended to the defendants as heirs of the said Benjamin Barnes & which are described in the complaint & which have been divided among said heirs, are liable as assets to the payment of the demand of the plaintiffs & the costs of this action. It is therefore ordered that Arthur Barnes, Clerk of this Court, be & is hereby appointed Commissioner to sell the same for the payment of the demand of plaintiffs & the costs. It is further ordered that said Commissioner expose to sale first the share of said lands which was allotted in the division aforesaid to the defendant, Peter L. Barnes, and if the said share shall not bring a sufficient sum to pay the plaintiffs' demand & the costs, that he sell such portions of said lands as were allotted to the other defendants, as will raise a sufficient sum to pay any balance.

It is further ordered that said Commissioner sell at the Court House door in Wilson after 30 days notice at said Court House, & four other public places in said County & that he take bond well secured for the purchase money, payable at six months from the day of sale, carrying interest from date & that he report to the next term of this court.

_ _ _ _

Superior Court Wilson County

Joshua Aycock & others—Plaintiffs
vs
Peter L. Barnes & others—defendants

The answer of Peter L. Barnes, admit all the allegations of the complaint except the 9th and 14th –
1st As to the 9th allegation, the said Peter L. Barnes, alledges that he has no assets belonging to the estate of the intestate Benjamin Barnes, except three judgments obtained against one Jinnett Holland at Spring Term 1867 of this Court, amounting to about thirty nine hundred dollars & interest – that he hopes at an early day, probably before the next term of this court, to realize from these judgments enough to pay the claim of the plaintiffs in default whereof he has no defense against a judgment for a sale of the land described in the proceedings. He insists, however, that the whole of the sum due the plaintiffs shall not be paid out of that portion of said land belonging to the defendants, but that there shall be a suitable deduction from said claim, in proportion to the shares of said land which it appears are owned by the plaintiffs.
2nd As to the 14th allegation, it is admitted that the parties mentioned therein own no tangible property, besides that set forth.

Strong—Attorney for P. L. Barnes

## CALVIN ATKINSON CEMETERY

### Contributed by J. Albert Bass

Located in Cross Roads Township near the intersection of Alton Road and Wheat Swamp Road, clearly visible though small. Not hidden or overgrown. One can drive right up to it.
(35d 36.01N 78d 00.05W)

Calvin Atkinson
Sept. 22, 1825
Aug. 24, 1908

John William Atkinson
Nov. 24, 1893
Jan. 14, 1955

Minnie Barnes Atkinson
May 12, 1889
May 27, 1951

Nona
Dau. of
J. S. & Elizabeth Atkinson
May 26, 1897
Jan. 23, 1907

Josiah Atkinson
1863—1928

Elizabeth Atkinson
1867—1934

John Atkinson
Died Dec. 1943
age 86 years

Calvin Atkinson was the son of Daniel and Viney Atkinson. He married first Elizabeth Bass, daughter of Wright Bass and Annis Umfleet. Their children were Willie, Smithy, Penelope, Thomas Ruffin, John Wright, Josiah S., Cena and Susan. Calvin married second, on December 26, 1895, Pennie Jackson, the sister of his first wife.

John William Atkinson was a son of Josiah S. Atkinson and wife, Elizabeth.

Josiah Atkinson's wife was Elizabeth Hayes, daughter of Nathan Thomas Hayes and Mary Lucas.

John Wright Atkinson married Mary E. Ruffin. Their children were Ella and Bessie.

## MINUTES FEBRUARY 2007 MEETING

WCGS held its February meeting in the Wilson Library on Tuesday evening February 27th with Sue Powell, our president, presiding. She welcomed the members, introduced our guests and gave a brief report on Henry Powell's illness. The minutes were approved as printed in Trees. A brief, concise treasurer's report was given.

Work on Founding Families continues to be a slow work in progress. Sue devotes what time she can. Hopefully, as Henry improves, there will be an opportunity to move forth closer to a publishing date.

Dues are slowly coming in, copies of the 2007 calendar are for purchase at the price of $10.00 each, and the Winstead banner will be placed with a family member. Grace Turner located a family interested in owning it. We were reminded to bring in old photographs of homes, including the families, in preparation for the next year's calendar.

There was little new business. We had a request for State Archives searches and were reminded of the programs for the coming months which are:

March: Jay Peacock, "Civil War in Eastern North Carolina"

April: Betty McCain and John Hackney, "Wilson County Historical Association's WWII Project"

May: Peter Thompson, a native of Wales, "Wales and Welch genealogy"

June: Social

September to be announced

October: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

Sue made announcements of forthcoming workshops and meetings and passed around interesting articles for the members to read. We have had a request through the library for a mentor to assist a high school senior with the search for her ancestors as her senior project .

Sue introduced Robert Crawford who spoke to us on the preservation of Wilson's historic properties. Robert is a very motivated young man with a great deal of interest in historical buildings and their future.

He talked about preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and rehabilitation and explained the standards by which buildings were considered for historic preservation. Association with a significant historical event or a historically significant person, or embodiment of distinctive features are some of the necessary requirements.

Robert reminded us that Wilson is a most historic community. He pointed out different sites, and buildings in three existing sections, and other areas for study which might become future historic districts. We were shown pictures of landmarks, which we all recognized along with the many bungalows for which Wilson is known.

Preservation of Wilson, a not for profit organization, strives to preserve the things that make Wilson unique. Robert listed the ways to acquire the property along with the advantages and disadvantages of each and explained their protective covenants and why those covenants are crucial.

It was a most informative session and well presented. Thanks to Rob for reminding us of our heritage and encouraging us to protect it.

The meeting adjourned with time for visiting and questions about preservation.

*Frances W. Roberson*

## WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Local History Room awaits your research session. The collection of books and microfilm is very extensive. Plan to take advantage of our expanded research facility.

**NEW!!!** A special file cabinet has been added to house family history records in a secure manner. Those loose files already at the library are in the process of being filed. Your family records would be welcome additions. See Deborah Webb, Reference Librarian, to make your contribution.

The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking is available near the Broad Street Entrance.

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

• *An Index to the Smithfield Herald, Vol. 1-4,* compiled by Jeffrey P. Begeal

• *Wilkes County, North Carolina Marriage Records, 1779-1868,* by Frances T. Ingmire

Mary Ann Sheak contributed the following records for the vertical family files:

Descendants of Ann Pittman 1815-2005
Descendants of Drewery S. Bryant, 1826-2005
Descendants of Daniel Moore, 1852-2003
Descendants of Thomas Price, Sr., and Thomas Price, Jr.
Descendants of John Robbins 1700-2005
Moore Descendants

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• North Carolina Genealogical Society and Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina are co-sponsoring a one day workshop in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The program, entitled "Stop and Smell the Roses: Get in Touch with Your Ancestors," is designed to help you "take the time to understand the life and times of the ancestors that we have discovered." The lecture topics are "Investigating Your Ancestors," "Rogues and Rascals: Divorced, Litigious, or Downright Criminal Relatives!" "Where Do I Go From Here?" and "Developing a Research Plan." The fee for members of either society will be $45, for non-members $55. For more information see: http://www.ncgenealogy.org or email info@ncgenealogy.org

• Braswell Memorial Library will sponsor "Genealogy by Design," a genealogy workshop, on Saturday, March 31st, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Warner Meeting Room. Tim Rackley will conduct four sessions:

"Inquiring minds want to know"—Basics of genealogical research: planning, collecting information, organization, and documentation. "Roads less traveled"—Sources often ignored: court records, tax lists, church records, school records, etc. "Needle in a haystack"—Census matrix technique and other problem-solving methods. "Up a Creek"—Platting land deeds

• National Genealogical Society, Annual Conference, Richmond, Va., May 16-19, 2007. See their web site for more detalis: http://ngsgenealogy.org

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

***Atkinson, Aycock, Barnes, Proctor, Strickland, Woodard***

**March 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $3.00. Shipping cost for maps is $3.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 7% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
Total of items ordered $_____ Shipping $_____ Sales Tax $_____ Total of Order $_____

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☐ Please enroll me as a member of WCGS. **I enclose $20 for personal membership & subscription to *Trees***. Please allow 3-5 weeks for shipping on all orders. **You may order books & membership through our website. http://www.wcgs.org.**

# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

**April 2007** **Volume 16 Number 4**


## President's Message

Last month, I asked "How well do you know your ancestors?" Here are suggestions of sources that might provide answers to some of your questions. Be creative as you search for, read, and evaluate what you find.

Possible sources:

Vital records (birth, marriage, death)

Land, tax, road and bridge records

Probate, county court, superior court, equity court, civil and criminal court, court dockets, cohabitation, divorce, military and pension records

Bonds (apprentice indentures, bastardy, officials', and tavern bonds)

Estates records (inventories, accounts of sales, widow's provision and dower, guardians, etc.)

Business records

Censuses:

Population Schedule

Other Schedules (such as Agriculture, Mortality, Slave, Industry)

Statistical Summaries

Laws and customs

Directories (city, county, state)

Insurance Maps

Journals, Diaries, and Letters

Newspapers

Sales Catalogs

Local, Social, Political Histories

Historical Cookbooks

Historical Maps

Geographical Dictionaries

Historical Preservation Materials

Travel Guides and Old Travelogues

Sociological Studies

Popular Culture Books

Encyclopedias (current and old)

Church and School Records and Histories

Photographs, artifacts, folklore

*Sue Evans Powell*

## APRIL 24TH MEETING

### Wilson County Public Library Assembly Room, 7:00 PM

Please join us for our regular meeting on April 24th for a report on a local history project.

Several years ago, the Wilson County Historical Association began to compile the recollections of local persons who served in the military during World War II. Project co-chairs Betty McCain and John Hackney will share with us some of the stories that have been submitted and how the collection will be preserved.

Programs for the coming months are:

May 29: Peter Thompson, a native of Wales, "Wales and Welch genealogy"

June 26: Social

September 25: Ray King, subject to be announced

October 30: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

November 27: Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers, Show and Tell, Social

## 2006 INDEX

The 2006 Index has not been forgotten; however, it will be very late this year. Due to the continuing illness of Henry Powell, co-editor and husband of myself, Sue Powell, co-editor, we have been unable to prepare it when we usually do. Also as co-editors of *Founding Families of Wilson County,* we have devoted time to this book that we might have spent on the index.

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees.*

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
November the 16, 1863

Mrs. Mary J. Edwards
Wilson P. O.
Wilson County, N. C.

Dear Sister,

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hoping you the same. Bunyan, I want to hear from you. Let me hear from you, and let me know how you are getting along. Bunyan, I want you to let me know how everything is getting along, and write me all the news. I heard that you have been having chills. I want to know whether it was you who shot your thumb, or not. Tell Mary Gray to write to me every time she can. Tell sister Betty to write to me, for I want to hear from her. Tell Nanney also to write to me. Tell Aunt Penny I want to see her. Tell Uncle London I want to see him very badly. I have nothing to write, only very hard times here. We are expecting to have to march every minute. I must come to a close, saying I remain your dear brother until death. Excuse my bad writing.

George Woodard

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
December the 6th, 1863

Dear Sister,

I take the pleasure of writing you a

*(continued on page 38)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

This chronicle is published by the Wilson County Genealogical Society, organized February 26, 1991. Address: P.O. Box 802, Wilson, NC 27894-0802. Telephone 252-243-1660. Internet address:

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(Woodard Letters, continued from page 37)*


few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hope you the same. I wish I was with you all to eat some good fresh meat, for I don't get anything to eat but flour and beef, and I have eaten so much of it that it don't do me any good at all. I went down to the river to meet the Yankees last week. We never got in any fight. We lay behind the breastworks all the time. They would not come upon us at all. They left and went back across the river. Mary, it is hard times here. I want you to tell Bill Batts I want to see him. Tell him I will let him stay there at my place for nothing, if he will hire me someone to take my place. Tell him to write to me and let me know as soon as he can. Tell Mary Gray to write to me. I have nothing more to write at this time, so I will come to a close by saying I remain your dear Brother, so good-bye.

[ GEORGE W. WOODARD ]

## William Lynn Banks Obituary
## *The Wilson Times,* November 2, 1916
### Contributed by J. Robert Boykin

**Mr. W. L. Banks**

After a lingering illness of several months which he bore with the most patient fortitude, always realizing that it was but a question of time until the end would come Mr. W. L. Banks a prominent and useful citizen and business man of this city was this afternoon at ten minutes past three called to his eternl [sic.] home.

All that loving hands could do, and skilled physicians and surgeons could devise was done to arrest the fatal disease that was sapping the life of the patient, but with [no] avail. He visited a number of leading surgeons in different parts of the country in order to obtain relief.

The deceased was 48 years of age last March and was born near Clayton in Johnston county, and came to Wilson about 23 years ago. He has always been very successful, amassing considerable property, and was never tiring in his energy. He held a number of places of trust and was active in all the affairs of the county, having held the position of chairman of the board of County Commissioners, a director in the Branch Banking Company, a member of the board of stewards of the Methodist church, was a member of the Junior Order of Odd Fellows, was chairman of the Young Men's Organization of Wilson county in the prohibition election and did excellent work in the campaign when Wilson county was carried for prohibition.

About 15 years ago he was married to Miss Marguerite Lane of Wayne County, and to them were born five children, Carey Hunter Banks, Hester Banks, Marguerite Banks, Elizabeth Banks and Linda Banks.

The deceased was a devoted hus-[sic.] brothers and one sister, Mrs. J. M. Banks, of Wake County, Rev. A. T. Banks of Henderson, N. C., Mr. A. F. Banks of Montgomery, Ala., and Mrs. Penny of Clayton, N. C.

The deceased was a devoted husband, father and friend, and will be missed by every one.

The funeral of Mr. Banks will occur about 3:30 tomorrow afternoon, although all the arrangements so far have not been perfected.

[Editor's note: Typed as originally printed. William L. Banks, insurance agent, was listed as "Not Reported When Enumerating" in the 1900 Wilson County Census. *Wilson County, North Carolina Federal Census of 1900,* abstracted by Joan L. Howell and Janice C. Sharpe.

William Lynn Banks, born 01 March 1868, was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Wilson, N. C. Margaret Lane Banks, born 30 August 1881, died 24 September 1960 and Carey Hunter Banks, born 03 January 1903, died 28 March 1980, are also buried there. *Wilson County, North Carolina Cemeteries – Volume IV,* compiled by Joan L. Howell.]

## HARTWELL WILLIFORD
### Hugh B. Johnston files

Hartwell Williford, son of John Williford of Edgecombe County, was born on December 14, 1789, and died on June 17, 1875. His quaint old two-story house still stands about a mile east of Elm City, but has been deprived of its porches and chimneys and altered for use as a barn. The old family graveyard, without any visible stones and unused for many years, lies in a field southerly across the branch from the house. It may be presumed that there was an earlier residence in the vicinity of the graveyard, before the present ante-bellum structure was located conveniently beside the road. The farm is now known as the "Jerry Jackson Place," having long since passed out of the possession of the family.

He married the first wife, Amanda(?) Taylor, daughter of William Taylor and Agnes Farmer, about 1811. She was born in 1794 and died about 1847. On November 4, 1848, he married secondly Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of Stephen Taylor and wife Nancy Curle, bonded by James G. Williford. She was born March 15, 1813, and died on December 7, 1886. On June 24, 1835, she had married Abraham T. Sharpe, bonded by Thomas Sharpe. There were three children by Hartwell's last marriage, and at least six by the first marriage. Elizabeth Taylor Sharpe Williford had four children by her first husband.

On October 9, 1810, John Williford sold Hartwell Williford for £37 in specie money 72 acres on Marsh Branch adjoining Great Marsh, Burwell Barnes, and John Robbins, witnessed by John Williams and Jonas (x) Summerling. (Deed Book 15, p. 322) On April 1, 1819, Hartwell Williford sold Meedy Williford for $300.00 a tract on Marsh Branch adjoining Burrell Barnes, witnessed by Jacob Proctor. (Deed Book 17, p. 135) On December 3, 1819, he sold William Taylor for $82.50 a tract of 33 acres on Marsh Branch and the Robbins line, witnessed by William Taylor and William D. Petway. (Deed Book 17, p. 317) On January 28, 1820, he sold Isaac Brashor for $250.00 a tract of 100 acres on Mercer's Mill Branch adjoining Tempey Bullock, Hardy Flowers and the Scott line, witnessed by Burrell Barnes and Benjamin Mason. (Deed Book 17, p.73) On January 14, 1820, Josiah Soary sold Hartwell Williford for $100.50 the preceding tract, witnessed by Egbert H. and Priscilla (x) Williams. (Deed Book 17, p. 79)

On January 3, 1822, Isaac Brasher sold Hartwell Williford for $200.00 100 acres on Mercer's Mill Branch adjoining Tempey Bullock, witnessed by Meedy Williford and Burrell Land. (Deed Book 17, p. 520) On September 29, 1826, Thomas Young sold Hartwell Williford for $15.00 his interest in the estate and land north of Little Swamp coming from William Taylor, deceased, witnessed by John G. Williams and William Barnes. (Deed Book 21, p. 227)

On March 20, 1828, Hartwell Williford sold Burrell Barnes for $200.00 a tract of 100 acres adjoining Coppage's Corner, Burrell Barnes, Marsh Branch, and north of Brand Swamp, witnessed by Hardy F. Barnes and William Taylor. (Deed Book 19(?), p. 249) On August 23, 1830, Benjamin (x) Williams, Jr. sold him for $50.00 a tract of 36 acres and any interest in the estate of William Taylor, Sr., adjoining the heirs of John Taylor and the said Williford's line, witnessed by Burrell Barnes. (Deed Book 20, p. 47)

On November 18, 1830, John (A) Batts, Sr., sold Hartwell Milliford for $100.00 the 90 acres dowered on by Keziah Taylor, widow of William Taylor, adjoining the heirs of John Taylor on Little Swamp, during the lifetime of Keziah Taylor, witnessed by John G. Williams. (Deed Book 21, p. 205) On December 21, 1833, William Taylor sold him for $40.00 one-fifth of 200 acres north of Asael Farmer's Mill Swamp adjoining William Fleming, from the William Taylor estate, witnessed by Thomas Taylor, S. Dunford, and R. P. Allen. (Deed Book 21, p. 242) On November 23, 1837, Hartwell Williford mortgaged 300 acres adjoining Burrell Barnes, to secure certain debts and judgements, to William D. Petway, William J. Andrews, Samuel P. Jenkins, Moses Baker, Asael Farmer, David G. Baker, James Bilbry, Henry Taylor, Peter E. Hines, Willie Atkinson, and Gray Armstrong, witnessed by H. Dixon. (Deed Book 21, p. 639)

On November 28, 1838, Sheriff William D. Petway sold at auction 100 acres of Hartwell Williford's land south of Town Creek adjoining Burrell Barnes, to satisfy claims of Gray Armstrong & Son, to William J. Armstrong, the highest bidder. (Deed Book 22, p. 502) On January 29, 1840, Asael Farmer sold Hartwell Williford his interest in the land of the late William Taylor north of Little Swamp adjoining Benjamin Crumpler, Marsh Branch, and Coffield Dixon, witnessed by James G. Williford and Meedy E. (M) Williford. (Deed Book 23, p. 599) On November 20, 1841, Hartwell Williford sold James G. Williford for $225.00 a tract of 100 acres south of Town Creek on Brand Swamp adjoining John Williford, Britton Boesman and Benjamin Edwards (from a grant to William Brand on October 28, 1782), witnessed by Meedy E. Williford and Willie Batts. (Deed Book 24, p. 356)

On January 12, 1845, David W. Weaver sold Hartwell Williford for $5.00 a tract of five acres adjoining Weaver and Skinner, witnessed by James G. Williford and Willie Robbins. (Deed Book 23, p. 597) On May 26, 1845, John and Elizabeth (x) Braswell sold him for $5.00 their interest in 162 acres left by William Taylor, deceased, adjoining James W. Barnes, Randolph Dixon, and Jenkins Taylor, witnessed by Joseph J. Porter and Ollin Warren. (Deed Book 23, p. 598) On April 17, 1847, Spencer S. and Margaret Harris sold him for $25.00 their interest (24 acres) in the lands of the late William Taylor on Brand Swamp adjoining James Barnes, including shares purchased from Perry Taylor, witnessed by Richard T. Eagles and Henry Harris. (Deed Book 24, p. 649)

On November 4, 1848, Hartwell Williford and Elizabeth (x) Sharpe made a marriage contract, by which she was to keep title to all her part of her father's estate, witnessed by James Wiggins and Willie G. Taylor. (Deed Book 24, 537) On January 26, 1849, Hartwell Williford sold James Wiggins for $407.00 a tract of 204 acres north of Town Creek near the Ford adjoining William I. Armstrong, John Pitt, and the heirs of William Williams, witnessed by R. H. Pender and Mayo Worsley. (Deed Book 25, p. 62) On January 25, 1849, he had bid $407.00 for this tract when it was sold by George W. Tison and James Wiggins, executors of Stephan Taylor, deceased, witnessed by William B. Daniel and Howell Beeland. (Deed Book 25, p. 67?)

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*(**Hartwell Williford,** continued from page 39)*

In August Court, 1850, Willie G. Taylor, George W. and Sarah A. (x) Tyson of Pitt County (later moved to Mississippi), Egbert H. Taylor, James and Martha (x) Viverett, James and Milbry (x) Wiggins, and Hartwell and Elizabeth (x) Williford agreed that Abraham T. Sharpe's heirs, William David, Queen Esther, Moses Abram, and Rhoda Ann Sharpe, be confirmed in the 95 acres sold to their father by Stephen Taylor on March 17, 1845. (Deed Book 25, p. 264?)

On June 12, 1852, William B. Daniel sold Hartwell Williford for $30.00 one acre in the Town of Wilson adjoining James D. Barnes and John Daniel, witnessed by J. D. Rountree and W. D. Thorn. (Deed Book 26, p. 95?) On January 28, 1853, James W. Barnes sold him for $12.00 three acres south of the Public Road near said Williford's house and the Taylor line, witnessed by James G. Williford and William D. Sharpe. (Deed Book 26, p. 115) On January 28, 1853, Hartwell Williford sold James W. Barnes for $8.00 two acres on the Public Road near Barnes's house and the Robbins line, witnessed by James G. Williford and William D. Sharpe. (Deed Book 26, p. 189)

In February, 1815, Hartwell Williford owed £0.4.0 to the estate of Robert Broadhurst. (Invs. & Accts of Sales, 1816-1818, pp. 293/294) On September 22nd he paid $12.15 for a cow and a calf at the sale of Benjamin Weaver's estate. (Invs. & Accts. of Sales, 1813-1816, pp. 297) On November 29, 1817, his due note was listed in the inventory of Esther Wilkins. (Invs & Accts. of sales, 1818-1820, pp. 335/337) On September 26, October 17, and December 26, 1817, Hartwell Williford was a purchaser at the sale of Samuel Farmer, Sr. (Invs. & Accts of Sales, 1816-1818, pp. 329/335) On December 16 and 17, 1817, and January 10, 1818, he paid $12.28 for a cow and yearling, $3.75 for a top stack and some shucks, and $4.28 for a goose at the sale of John Williams. (Invs. & Accts. of Sales, 1818-1820, pp. 252/253) On December 1, 1818, Hartwell Williford, William Batts, Jonathan Thomas, and others were purchasers at the sale of Josiah Askew. (Invs. & Accts. Of Sales, 1818-1820, pp. 200/20?)

On April 19, 1821, Hartwell Williford paid $ .35 for three axes at the sale of John Taylor. (Invs. & Accts. of Sales, 1820-1825, pp 176/177) On August 3rd, at the sale of Celia Pender, he paid $1.15 for a set of cups and saucers, $.10 for 2 teapots, and $1.45 for a large pine table. (Invs. & Accts. of Sales, 1820-1825, pp. 258/259) On December 20th he paid $4.75 for a mare at the sale of Asa Little. (Inv. & Accts. of Sales, 1820-1825, p. 505) On January 25, 1842, at the sale of Bythal Braswell, Hartwell Williford paid $.05 for a mole trap, $.75 for two lots of plowhoes, $.17 for a cart wheel, $.67 for three sheep skins, and $6.25 for 5 sheep. (Invs. & Accts of Sales of Estates, 1836-1842, pp. 591/593) On May 1, 1851, Hartwell Williford, James G. Williford and others set off Polly Horn's dower land adjoining Willie J. Batts and others. (Deed Book 25, p. 375)

It is said that Hartwell Williford owned a great deal of land and slaves at the beginning of the Civil War. The Census of 1860 for Wilson County, Joyner's Post Office, valued his estate at $8,150.00, which was a considerable sum for that time and area. He became the first endorser of some notes with General Joshua Barnes (No. 722/717) and two other prominent citizens of Wilson County, and it was he and not they who had to make the notes good when the borrowers defaulted. On March 16, 1869, the appointed commissioners set off his homestead and took everything else he owned for the settlement. (Wilson County Deed Book 2, p. 764) The Wilson County Census of 1870 said that he and his wife were worth $3,000.00 but part of this may have represented property that she owned. (No. 114, 118) When she was first married to Abraham Sharpe, her father gave her a farm back of the Gray Williams place on the road from Upper Town Creek. (At a later date this farm was purchased by Jeremiah Batts.) It has also been said that Hartwell Williford died possessed of a lot or two in Wilson, from which his heirs never realized anything.

Family tradition states that Hartwell Williford possessed a ready temper and a powerful physique in his youth. On one occasion he engaged in a rough-and-tumble fight with another man in the neighborhood, seized him by the ears, and slung him around with such a force that these appendages were torn from the head of the unfortunate owner. On another occasion he became so infuriated with a slave fellow that kept stealing from the neighbors or running away and causing his master trouble and expense in bringing him back home, that he undertook this immediate, unique, and terrifying punishment. He knocked both heads from a barrel, drove short nails in the sides from every direction, tied the slave securely in it with his head out one end and his feet out the other, and rolled him a short distance down the road in front of the house. The nail pricks received through his clothes were probably inconsequential to the slave as compared with the moral effects, but at any rate he was from that time onward a model of deportment, for the rest of his life a reliable and industrious person.

Hartwell Williford was one of the earliest members of the Masonic Lodge in Wilson, and his funeral was conducted with their full ceremonies. William Calvin Batts wrote of him on August 5, 1923: "My old Grand Pa Williford, who always had friends and neighbors at his house---was a Universalist in religion, though a lovable old gentleman." It was not an exaggeration to say that his family were devoted to him, particularly his Grandchildren and his big black shaggy dog named "Bragg." After his master's death, the dog slept on the grave for awhile, tried to dig down to the coffin, and came to the house only for meals.

On January 2, 1857, Hartwell Williford sold James W. Davis for $150.00 one acre in or near the Town of Wilson adjoining J. D. Barnes, the Livery Stable corner on Plank Road Street, and William A. Bunn, witnessed by D. W. Barnes and Arthur Barnes. (Deed Book 1, p. 308) On September 22, 1858, he sold William D. Sharp for $680.00 a tract of 85 acres north of Brand Swamp adjoining the canal, John J. Moore, and Marsh Branch, witnessed by James G. Williford. (Deed Book 1, pp. 374 and 436) (It was land that Sharpe had mortgaged to him.) On December 26, 1859, he sold Willie J. Gardner for $ $50.00 a tract of five acres adjoining the Weaver and Skinner line and Thick Branch. (Deed Book 1, p. 554) On December 26, 1859, he sold Gardner for $750.00

*(Continued on page 41)*

*(Hartwell Williford, Continued from page 40)*
a tract of 95 acres south of Town Creek adjoining John G. Williams, Stephen Taylor, and Jesse Farmer. (Deed Book 1, p. 554)

On December 26, 1859, Hartwell Williford sold S. M. Warren for $650.00 one-quarter of an acre lot on Barnes Street in Wilson, running north along Lodge Street, west along the Wesley Swift line, south along Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner's line to Barnes Street, and east along Barnes Street to the beginning, witnessed by Thomas D. Gay and H. M. Warren. (Deed Book 1, p. 540) On May 25, 1863, James B. (x) Batts sold him for $160.00 ten acres adjoining the Road, Batts' Meeting House, James W. Barnes, Willie G. Barnes, and Rebecca Batts, witnessed by B. D. Armstrong and James Wiggins. (Deed Book 1, p. 877) On June 2, 1863, Batts sold him for $540.00 fifty acres south of Batts's Mill Pond and adjoining the Road, Branch near Batts's Meeting House, W. B. Batts, Perry Taylor, James Jenkins, and John B. Batts, witnessed by James Wiggins. (Deed Book 1, p. 878)

On March 16, 1869, Commissioners James W. Taylor and Josiah Farmer were ordered by the Court to set off a homestead for Hartwell Williford on March 17, under the supervision of W. J. Batts, J. P., and under the terms of Article Ten of the North Carolina Constitution, said Homestead not to exceed a value of $500.00 in personal property and $1,000.00 in real estate. They listed 150 acres adjoining W. T. Taylor and J. B. Barnes and 65 acres in the Berry Batts tract, worth $475.00 ($345.00 and $130.00). They valued the following property at $416.50: bay mare, small gray mule, ox, 6 cattle, 7 hogs, 10 barrels of corn, 1,200 pounds of fodder, 4 bushels of peas, 25 bushels of cotton seed, 400 pounds of bacon, 20 pounds of lard, old cart and wheels and body, set of old harness, 2 old plows, 2 sets of plow traces and hames, other farming utensils, 2 beds and steads and furnishings, 3 tables, 2 walnut tables, 12 old splint-bottomed chairs, 2 old pine chests, clock out of order, kitchen furniture, crockery ware, table cutlery, bottle case, china press, and an old worn-out brandy still. (Deed Book 2, p.764)

On May 25, 1872, Hartwell and Elizabeth (x) Williford mortgaged the home-place of 165 acres adjoining Levi Hayes, Dew, Marsh Branch, Brand Swamp, and William T. Taylor; and the James B. Batts tract of 60 acres adjoining Levi M. Hayes, James Jenkins, C. S. Braswell, and J. N. A. Taylor, to Rountree, Baker & Hadley (A. Rountree, J. H. Baker, and T. J. Hadley) and M. Rountree & Co. (Moses Rountree and W. D, Rountree) to cover notes of $957.19 and $108.76, witnessed by Henry Conner. (Deed Book 6, p. 231) On May 3, 1873, they deeded the preceding tract to Winnifred H. Williford, George W. Williford, and Della Farmer (wife of Eddie Farmer) on condition that they pay the Rountree & Co. mortgage and also furnish said Williford and wife lifetime support, witnessed by John Dew, Jr. (Deed Book 7, p. 573)

On January 15, 1886, Elizabeth Williford sold Jeremiah Whitehead for $1,000.00 a tract of 111 ¾ acres south of Town Creek adjoining Polly Farmer, A. Hines, Mrs. Parker; also, the Petway tract adjoining John W. Wilkins; witnessed by T. W. Draughn and G. W. Williford. (Deed Book 24, p. 50) On February 15, 1886, she deeded George W. Blount the guardian bond for the land of Willie E. Winstead, Mary Clyde Winstead, Addie J. Winstead, Joseph K. Winstead, and S. Winstead adjoining Albert Farmer, David A. Batts, Daniel Hawkins, and James Lewis. (Deed Book 24, p. 75)

Elizabeth (x) Williford made her will in Wilson County on June 14, 1887, probated January 14, 1889: (1) D. W. Sharpe, bed, quilt, and a knitted counterpane, by a codicil; (2) son and executer George W. Williford, beds and steads, household and kitchen furniture, and $100.00 as compensation for taking care of her in her old age; (3) daughter Q. E. Williford, $50.00; (4) Rhody A. Winborn, share of the rest of the estate; (5) Ella Winstead, share of the rest; (6) James L. Farmer, share of the rest; and (7) witnesses James W. Taylor and A. R. Batts. (Wilson County, Will Book 1, pp. 507/508)

In the Edgecombe County Census of 1820 Hartwell Williford had two sons and three daughters under ten, himself, wife, and three slaves. (p. 125) In 1830 he had two sons under ten, one son 15-20, one daughter under five, one daughter 10-15, two daughters 15-20, and a wife. (District No. 5) In 1840 he had one son 5-10, one son 15-20, two daughters 10-15, wife, and one slave. (District No. 5) On June 1, 1850, he was listed with himself, wife Elizabeth, the four Sharpe stepchildren, Sally Ann (born in 1842), James B. (born in 1844), and Winnifred H. Williford. (No. 477 on the second list)

Children of Hartwell Williford
by his first wife Amanda(?) Taylor

1. James Gray Williford, born in 1814, died in December 1861, married on November 26, 1834, Polly Curle, born 1817, died 1852, daughter of Redmond Curle and wife Sarah Watkins.
2. Hilliard Lawrence Williford, born in 1816, married Penninah Batts on November 26, 1834, and her sister Barshaba Batts, born 1809, on December 23, 1835.
3. Elizabeth Williford, born in 1818, died August 8, 1850, married Willie (Wiley) Jordan Batts, born February 28, 1819, died October 29, 1902, son of Bailey and Esther Jordan Batts.
4. Mary Ann Williford, born in 1820, married Samuel Moore of Pitt County on February 27, 1837. She is said to have married secondly a Mr. Hinton.
5. Meedy E. Williford, born in 1824, died in 1860, married on November 11, 1845, Elizabeth Moore, born November 10, 1828, died June 22, 1904, daughter of Ichabod Moore and wife Elizabeth Jones.
6. Amanda W. Williford, born in 1828, married William B. Daniel on December 9, 1845.
7. Bennett L. Williford, born in 1830, married Mary A. Meares on August 26, 1850.

Children of Hartwell and Elizabeth Williford

1. Winnifred H. Willifred, born in 1849, died in 1876, married Lemuel Hardison, died in 1877.
2. George Washington Williford, born on February 29, 1852, died March 20, 1930, married on January 9, 1873, Nancy Thomas Phelps, born February 17, 1855, died November 18, 1949, daughter of Nathaniel Phelps.
3. Della Jane Williford, born in 1857, married, on December 14, 1871, Edwin Barnes Farmer, born 1851, son of Jesse Farmer and wife Mary Batts.

## BONDS THAT BIND: WHAT'S A MARRIAGE BOND - AND WHY?

### By Richard A. Pence

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Pay attention, class! There is going to be a quiz.

Below is a marriage bond typical of the kind used in many areas of the U.S. in the late 18th and for much of the 19th centuries:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we John Pence Jun. and John Pence are held firmly bound to His Excellency Robert Brooke Esq. Governor of Virginia, in the just and Full sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made, to the said Governor, or his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our seal and dated this 8th day of December, 1795.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that, Whereas there is a marriage suddenly intended to be Solemnized between the above bound John Pence Jun. and Eve Piper now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said Marriage, then the above obligation to be void and of no effect, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. Sealed and delivered in the presence of John Bence (Seal) John Bentz (Seal)

Each of the statements below is either TRUE or FALSE. Please answer accordingly:

1. TRUE or FALSE: While both men used more traditional spellings of their surname (usually BENTZ), the fact that the clerk rendered their names on the bond as PENCE indicates that their surname had been legally changed.

2. TRUE or FALSE: Information in this marriage bond is evidence that the father of "John Pence Jun." was John Bentz, the bondsman.

3. TRUE or FALSE: The cost of getting married in Virginia in 1795 was $150.

4. TRUE or FALSE: The above bond constitutes a legal promise to Eve Piper by John Pence (Jun.) that he will marry her.

STATEMENT 1 is FALSE. Name changes were rarely planned or formalized. Furthermore, there were no spelling standards and thus no right or wrong way of spelling a name. It was common for a name to be signed differently from the way it was spelled in a document.

STATEMENT No. 2 is FALSE. While the surety for a marriage bond was often a relative of either the bride or the groom, there was no requirement that this be so. Nor was it necessary for the father of either party to "sign off" on the marriage unless one or the other of the parties was under age. As for the terms "Jr." and "Sr.," in common usage of this time these designations did not indicate a relationship. The terms were used to differentiate between any two men with the same name, with the older being called "Sr." and the younger "Jr." In this case, John "Jun." had as his bondsman an older first cousin, a man of some property and thus an acceptable surety.

STATEMENT 3 is FALSE. There may have been some small clerk's fee and perhaps a "gift" to the minister or justice of the peace, but the amount stated in a marriage bond would have been paid only if the condition of the bond was not met, as explained in the following section.

STATEMENT No. 4 is also FALSE. A marriage bond was NOT a promise to marry.

A bit of history may help us to understand the nature of the marriage bond. In early colonial America, "marriage banns" were usually the formal process leading up to the wedding. Notice of the impending marriage was read from the church pulpit or posted at the church door over a set period of time. The purpose of this was to allow those who knew the bride and groom to object if there was a legal reason why the marriage should not take place ("speak now or forever hold your peace").

There were three principal legal barriers: either or both were not yet of legal age, either or both were already married, or the bride and groom were too closely related to marry under the laws of the jurisdiction.

As America gradually became more of a frontier nation, often either the bride or the groom would not be well known in the community. To overcome this, the marriage bond soon replaced the banns.

The groom and a suitable bondsman ("surety") would pledge an amount (usually specified by law) to an official (often the governor of the colony or state) as a guarantee that there were no legal impediments to the forthcoming marriage. The bond was "conditional" -- that is, the pledged amount would be forfeited only if there proved to be a legal reason the couple should not marry. If no such legal barrier existed, the bond would be null and void, even if the wedding failed to take place for some other reason. In many jurisdictions the bond remained in force for a year or two after the marriage and apparently would have been forfeited if any illegality came to light during that time.

Use of the marriage bond began to fade in the middle to late 1800s and by the close of the century most jurisdiction relied on "sworn" statements made in the application for the marriage license to guard against illegal marriages.

While the information that appears on marriage bonds is often what is abstracted into compilations of marriage records, it is by no means the only information about the marriage that may be available in the county. Take the case of Rhoda, the supposed daughter of John STEINBERGER and his wife, Elizabeth PENCE.

Rhoda appears as the oldest child of this couple on a list compiled by members of the STEINBERGER family who went to Bartholomew County, Indiana, in the 1820s. She does not appear on lists compiled by STEINBERGER descendants who remained in Champaign County, Ohio. The Indiana list says she "married a SCHOONOVER." No record of this marriage could be found, but one day while scanning a list of "unknown" PENCEs I spotted a marriage between Henry SCHOONOVER and Rhoda PENCE in Champaign County, Ohio. A quick check of the records at the court house revealed that Rhoda was not of age at the time of the marriage and that "her mother, Mrs. STEINBERGER" had

*(Continued on Page 43)*

*(Marriage Bonds, continued from page 42)*
given her consent to the marriage. Thus it appears that Rhoda was born to Elizabeth PENCE before the latter's marriage to John STEINBERGER.

Recently I read a "testimonial" to the value of the Internet. It seems family researchers had been searching for "over 40 years" for the names of the parents of a particular set of great-great-grandparents. They knew when and where the couple had married, but that's where the trail ended, or so they thought. Then a kind soul who lived in the county in question visited the court house and there it was discovered that neither of the great-great-grandparents was of age when they married. Thus the consent of both sets of parents was needed -- and these were on file at the court house.

Obviously, then, it wasn't necessary to wait for the Internet to make this discovery. These family researchers simply failed to follow-up on what they had learned. They wrongly assumed that the information contained in a book which gave the marriage record of their ancestors was all that could be found in the court house. As a result they never bothered to write for a copy of the original (and complete) record, which had languished in the court house since 1843.

In these days of easy access via the Internet to record abstracts, we need to be constantly reminded of this lesson: What you find online is likely only to be an index to a more complete record. You need to get a copy of the original, for not only may the compilation have errors but also the original may contain far more information.

In the case of marriage records, in addition to the bond you will often find supporting information, such as the consent of parents. You also will usually find what is called the "minister's return" -- the person who performed the ceremony was required to report to the clerk that he had performed the marriage and when and where.

If you find a marriage bond without a return it doesn't necessarily mean that the wedding didn't take place (the minister may have neglected to report the marriage), but you will need to dig a bit deeper to make sure it did.

Finally, remember that the date on the bond is usually a day or two before the actual marriage. When you encounter instances where there are two dates only a few days apart, it is likely you are looking at the bond date and the wedding date.

FINAL QUIZ QUESTION: From time to time you will encounter a marriage record which says a man has married a woman who is described as "his ward." Your multiple choice question is:

When a record shows that a man married his ward, what of the following most likely happened?

a. He was an old lecher who had (finally?) decided to marry a young girl he had been raising.

b. Unable to find a suitable wife, he adopted a young orphan girl so he could later marry her.

c. He had watched the orphan he had been raising blossom into womanhood and fell in love with her, eventually convincing her to marry him.

d. None of the above.

The answer is probably (d). What apparently happened is this:

Jacob Suitor and Susan Lovely had fallen in love and wished to marry. But Susie had not yet reached the legal marrying age. Her father had died some years earlier and her mother refused to give her consent to the marriage.

Not to worry. Susie and Jake hightailed it to a judge at the court house and, since she was above the age of 14, she asserted her legal right to choose her own guardian.

Naturally, she chose none other than her lover-boy Jake! The judge dutifully complied with the request and the couple, along with Jake's brother Bill, then trotted down the court house hall to the clerk's office. There the two men executed a marriage bond and Jake -- now Susie's legal guardian -- also gave his consent for her to marry him.

As the saying goes, love will find a way. It appears our ancestors often were resourceful in their search for the route!

## LOUISA WALSTON OBITUARY

### *Zion's Landmark,* October 15, 1907

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

On Sunday morning July 7th, 1907, the spirit of sister Louisa Walston, freed from its earthly tenement, took its flight, we believe to the home of the redeemed and blest.

She was the daughter of John R. and Polly Pitt, of Edgecombe Co., N. C., was born July 19th, 1849, died July 7th, 1907. She was married to W. F. Walston February 21st, 1869. She joined the Primitive Baptists August 1876, was baptised by Elder B. C. Pitt. She was a faithful member until her [death], much loved by the brethren.

She leaves a devoted husband and nine children, six grand children, two sisters and one brother.

She was in poor health for a number of years, was so patient in her afflictions. I have often heard her express a desire to be relieved when suffering, but always confessing the justice of God in afflicting her, seemed to be resigned to God's will being done. She was confined to her home for several months, was ever humble and submissive, appreciated every little act of kindness, so many times I have heard her say: "I am blest in having so many willing hands to wait on me." It was so hard to stand by and see her suffer and not be able to do one thing to relieve her, .... In disposition she was kind, gentle and unselfish, abiding by her candid convictions of right and wrong. I can truthfully say, to know her was to love her, her life was beautiful to me, always a smile of welcome on her dear face for her friends. Her goodness and kindness made all who knew her, her friends. A kinder and more devoted wife and mother I have never known, always striving for the peace and comfort of her loved ones. For several days before she died, her countenance seemed to express that she was calmly awaiting the appointed time of the Lord, trusting alone in death and resurrection of Jesus for justification, having realized within herself that vain is the help of man. We miss her gentle influence, yet when we think of the bright evidence that she left behind the memory of her great assurance comes as a balm to soothe our sorrows, and we feel assured that she is at rest.

May the Lord comfort her dear husband, children and friends.

One who loved her.

FANNIE I. LEWIS.

St. Lewis, N. C., Sept. 16th, 1907.

## LUCAMA 1914 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**The Wilson Times**

Contributed by J. Robert Boykin

February 19, 1914

Schools and Other Matters

Lucama, Feb. 19.—Please allow me a space in your valuable paper for a subscriber which have been for a good long time and hope to still remain.

Our farming has been somewhat at a stand still for the last few days during this bad spell of weather.

There is one thing I want to mention and that is that our school at Ward's has stopped. We are not having any school now. I am very sorry, indeed, that our school has stopped. I am under the impression that somebody has not done their duty towards our school at Ward's. For a good while before it stopped they had no wood to build a fire, and had to stay there cold unless they picked up some thing and they had something like one hundred students enrolled and a good many of these children, they were so small that they cannot do their parents any good at home and they belong in school and beside that we had good teachers, Mrs. Mammie Peele was the principal teacher and Miss Victoria Watson was the assistant.

Any one should have been proud of Mrs. Mammie Peele to have her teach their children. She has taught for us before and she gave entire satisfaction during the time she taught. She was sick and unable to attend one of the teacher's meetings and the county superintendent shaved her salary five dollars.

The assistant teacher attended all of the meetings but has not received her pay but for one month's work. The county is due her for five week's work.

Mr. Editor we have paid our tuition to send our children to school and yet we are unable to send them. I, for one am not going to pay for them to be sent some where else. It make me sore to think we have to pay our school tax and not get the benefit of our money. I truly hope this school matter will get in better shape and the free schools will continue to aun [sic.] and our children can go, and when they grow up they can look back and see what we have done and do better than we have done.

A SUBSCRIBER.

February 20, 1914

Some Facts About Ward's School.

To the Editor: For the benefit of "A Subscriber" and any others interested I submit the following facts:

1. The county pays the wood bills of the public schools of Wilson county as everyone knows. If any child has been too cold at Ward's that was the fault of the teacher, the committeemen and the people of that community. I do not think it is my duty to go up and cut wood for "A Subscriber's" children. I have, however, urged teachers to let me know before their fuel was out. I have repeatedly urged committeemen to attend to the wood matter, when I was informed by the teachers they were in need of wood. I heard on February 10th that Ward's school had had no wood for some time. I immediately wrote Mrs. Peele, the teacher, reminding her of what I had heard, telling her to contract for wood, if the people and the committeemen had neglected their duty, and that I would pay for the wood upon presentation of the bill. If any one has suffered for wood at Ward's, I am not responsible and nobody shall try to leave the impression that I am responsible for that trouble.

2. "A Subscriber" states as a fact that I shaved Mrs. Peele's salary $5.00 for not attending a meeting when she was sick. This is simply not true. I have received two salary vouchers from Mrs. Peele, each for $40. These were paid on Jan. 12th and Feb. 3d. These checks covered the two months beginning Dec. 1st and ending Jan. 30th. Mrs. Peele's third months salary voucher has not been sent to me for payment, because her 3d month is not yet ended. Remember that Mrs. Peele's school started Dec. 1st. The county has paid her all its legal or moral obligations up to Jan. 30th. It will pay any others incurred, when they are properly presented and she shows that she has done her work.

3. "A Subscriber" says the assistant has only been paid for one month. That is true. Her register was in need of much revision. I have held up her second voucher, until that work was done. The law says every teacher must keep an accurate record of the attendance, graduation and classification of her pupils. I am sworn to see that this is done. I have no apologies to make for attempting to do my sworn duty as best I can.

4. Only yesterday I knew for the first time that Mrs. Peele had left her school some days ago, without informing me or tendering her resignation or asking to be released from her contract. It seems to me that these two teachers for whom "A Subscriber" has such great sympathy should first of all carry out their own contracts with the county and make their reports and do the work imposed upon them by the law before he raises any kick about my conduct toward them.

Finally, I wish to say that every effort I have made to help these two teachers was resented by them. I had to tell both of them they would have to do their work, attend the teachers' meetings, etc., or I would refuse to approve their checks. It was only then they agreed to do their duty. I am not surprised that they have quit as they have.

Now, if "A Subscriber" wants a school at Ward's I am ready to help him have it. But I do not intend that any of this trouble at Ward's shall be laid before my door. "A Subscriber" need not assume the role of keeping me straight any longer. It would be far better for him to find out the facts, sign his name to his articles, and manifest a little more humane spirit than to send his little children two months to a cold school house and then try to lay the blame on somebody else. It certainly is a great pity such parents as "A Subscriber," who are so indifferent to the physical conditions of the place in which they pen up their little children, did not have to be confined in the same quarters. If they were, I imagine some of them would be more willing to help make their school houses decent and comfortable, instead of misrepresenting somebody who is trying hard to do his job.

CHARLES L. COON

Feb. 20, 1914.

*(Continued on page 45)*

*(Letters to the Editor, continued from page 44)*

March 12, 1914

Reply to Mr. Coon.

Lucama, Mar. 2.—In reply to county superintendent in regard to the school at Ward's I am a little surprised the county superintendent took all of the blame upon himself by the first article that was written from Lucama in regard to the wood, etc. It is a well-known fact that the writer is no school committeeman, but can prove by neighbors and friends that I said I would carry wood at Ward's school house and furnish it free of charge rather than to let the school stop, and as far as saying it struck me that some one had failed to do their duty, I say it also, that of course, it is a well known fact that some one has not discharged their duty. If they had, our school would have been going on this very day. But pardon me, I have not mentioned anyone's name and I do not have reference to any certain one, but, if everybody had discharged their duty our school would have been going on today, and as far as saying the county superintendent shaved Mrs. Peel's salary $5.00, she told me herself and of course I had no reason to doubt it, and as far as having such great sympathy for our teachers, of course, I have sympathy for them, but yet I think the school could stop in better shape than it did, and as far as the writer wanting a school at Ward's their is no one that wants a school more than I do, that is if we can have good teachers as we have had.

Their are none more in favor of free schools than I am in fact free schools is the only way we can give our small children an education. Now as far as signing my name to the article and manifesting a little more human spirit than to send our children two months' to a cold school, will say if it stopped entirely on account of wood it would have stopped long before it did, because they had none and yet if the school should start again and go on as before, if no one else will carry wood I will carry some if I never get pay for it, though I have said all the time that I felt like if any one would carry wood they would get pay for same. So any one can see that reads this article that it is not fault of mine, they had no wood.

Mr. Editor: I am not a school committeeman as I have stated in my letter and if it is not the duty of the school committeemen and the county superintendent to look after the school whose business is it?

I am under the impression that if our county superintendent had to sit in his office without coal or wood to build a fire he would have grunted louder then I did when I wrote the first article in the Wilson Times.

Very truly,

Wiley R. Barnes.

Lucama, N. C., R. F. D. 1, Box 14.

## NEW IN THE LIBRARY

- Helen F. M. Leary Lecture Series on CD
- *The Family Tree Problem Solver: Proven Methods for Scaling the Inevitable Brick Wall,* by Marsha Hoffman Rising. This book, a donation, was given by a WCGS member to the Elm City Branch. The main library also has a copy.
- *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record,* by John Phillip Colletta

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

A member has asked for an explanation of the roles of several titles in court minutes. We are including them here.

**Captain**—A captain's district was a sub-division of a county. It was usually used to denote the area allotted to one person and usually found on tax lists and censuses that are not related in any way to military service. (*A to Zax*)

Tax districts may be designated by the names of individuals, such as justices, constables, or captains, or by geographical references. Boundaries of such districts were often ill-defined. (*North Carolina Research)*

**Constable**—an English term for a policeman which was used in the early United States. In addition to his regular police duties, he was obliged to collect any taxes levied by the General Assembly. All these duties made the job undesirable. Penalties of heavy fines were imposed upon persons who chose not to accept the post. Colonial records show, however, that many men paid fines rather than serve as constable. (*A to Zax*)

**Esquire**—a title used in this country to mean a person of considerable influence or even wealth. (*A to Zax*)

**Magistrate**—1) a non-military government official; 2) a minor judicial officer who can issue a warrant for arrest. (*A to Zax...*)

A term without precise meaning; an officer of government having authority in minor judicial, legislative or executive matters, contests, and activities, e.g., Justices of the Peace and police magistrates are but two of the lesser officials that have been labeled as magistrates across the years. (*More What Do They Mean ...*)

**Overseer**—1) a Colonial official appointed to do one of any number of supervisory jobs, e.g. a road supervisor; 2) an officer of the Quaker church who had the duties of the business affairs of the meeting, preparing answers to queries, giving advice to members and preventing the introduction of unnecessary matters and premature complaints into meetings for business and discipline; 3) the ordnance officer in charge of construction. Sometimes he is called a superintendent; 4) a person in charge of work on a plantation; 5) an overlooker frequently appointed in wills. Sometimes the executor was called an overseer; 6) a man in the pillory. (*A to Zax*)

**Processioner**—a type of surveyor in England and the United States, especially Virginia and Kentucky. His job was to decide upon property boundaries to mark, and describe them in the Processioner's book. Occasionally, the total acres and property boundaries determined by the processioner will be found in old minutes of a church in whose parish boundaries the land in question was located. (*A to Zax*)

**Processioning, land**—Each four years, all landowners in a community would ride or walk along the boundaries of all their plantations. Surveyors who accompanied this procession would redraw any disputed lines. This custom came from England to Virginia as a means of avoiding disputes arising from poor surveys or loss of boundary markers such as trees. (*A to Zax*)

Sources: *A to Zax, A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians,* Third Edition, Barbara Jean Evans; *North Carolina Research, Genealogy and Local History,* Helen F. M. Leary and Maurice R. Stirewalt; *More What Did They Mean By That?, A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms Old and New*, Paul Drake, J.D.

## ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT, 1940-1941

**North Carolina State Archives, Department of Public Instructions, Division of Instruction Services, Elementary and Secondary Education Section. High School Principals Annual Reports, Northampton-Yancey 1940-1941.**

**Contributed by Grace Williamson Turner**

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT — COUNTY *Wilson*
STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION — SCHOOL *Rock Ridge*
YEAR: *1940 1941* RACE: *White* — POST OFFICE *Rt. 2, Wilson*

Principal (or other official head) *S. E. Teeter* Committee: Chairman *Albert Watson*
Secretary *S. C. Teeter* Date School opened this year *Oct. 11, 1940,* Closed *May 29, 1941*

| | High School | Elementary |
|---|---|---|
| Length of term: *160* | *32* Weeks; *160* Days | |
| No. years work given: *11* | Sr. H. S. *11* | |
| No. teachers: *16* | Men *5* Women *6* Total *11* | Men *0* Women *5* Total *5* |

Number of Graduates—Boys *22* Girls *38* Total *60*

TEACHERS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Helen Clark | 6 years as teacher | English, French |
| Louise Tunstall | 6 years as teacher | History |
| Sara Joyner | 1 year as teacher | Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Typing |
| Rena Morgan | 3 years as teacher | Math, English |
| Joseph C. Braxton | 3 years as teacher | Science, History |
| Donald M. Causey | 4½ years as teacher | English, Band |
| D. B. Sheffield | 9 years as teacher | Agriculture, Math, Boys' Advisor |
| Dixie Boykin | 10 years as teacher | Reading, History, Geography |
| Ralph Gorham | 6 years as teacher | English, History, Geography |
| Hazel Farmer | 5 years as teacher | Home Economics, Science, Girls' Advisor |
| S. E. Teeter | 7 years as teacher | General Business |

LIST OF SENIORS:

SENIOR BOYS:
Thomas Bobbitt
W. T. Boyette
Willis Boykin
Thomas Bunch
David G. Bunn
Carl Davis
John H. Davis
Wilton Davis
Selby Davis
Richard Fulghum
Thomas S. Godwin
Howard Clifton Lashley
P. M. Lewis
Willam Howard Liles
Rudolph Narron
William Thomas Pearson
A. J. Nichols
Willis Dalton Sharpe
George Smith
Bernice Wells
Jarrell Williamson
Ralph Williamson

SENIOR GIRLS
Bessie Mae Boswell
Gretchen Boswell
Judy Boyette
Myrtle Boykin
Eunice Boykin
Evelyn Boykin
Louise Boykin
Lillie Ruth Boykin
Ruby Boykin
Annie Mae Coleman
Frances Davis
Geraldine Davis
Gladys Davis
Lottie Davis
Ruby Mae Davis
Rena Eatmon
Ruby Eatmon
Elma Flowers
Margaret Hayes
Cleo Johnson
Georgia M. Johnson
Easter Lee Lamm
Alene Lamm
Magdelene Lamm
Mary Dell Lamm
Virginia Morris
Audrey Nichols
Pearl Owens
Elma Peele
Hazel Renfrow
Georgia Rowe
Malva Skinner
Alice Smith
Mae Blanch Thorne
Edythe Tomlinson
Pauline E. Tomlinson
Grace Watson
Marjorie Woodard

Library—52'x27', 1565 books, 18 magazines, 1 daily paper
Extra-Curricular Activities—*Rock Ridger,* school newspaper; Boys Glee Club, Girls Glee Club, Dramatic Club, Future Homemakers, Future Farmers [Other information about the school curriculum was included on this report.]

## MINUTES MARCH 2007 MEETING

The March meeting was called to order by Sue Powell, our president, with a welcome to guests, a brief report on Henry, and the acceptance of February minutes as printed in Trees.

Work on "Founding Families" is slowly progressing with nearly all of the families through the letter S having been completed. There are, however, a few discrepancies that need to be researched. Grace Turner looked up some information at Archives for Jefferie Ray who is very grateful and made a monetary gift to WCGS to start a fund for future gifts to deserving members, at Grace's suggestion. Lisa Henderson was asked to assist a high school senior on her senior project and replied that she would be honored to help.

Jerry Stancil told of an old historical cemetery with connections to the local Williams family. The graves date back to the 18th century. It is near Hornes Church on county road #1001, which is an extension of Lamms Road. It has been cleaned.

Jerry also reminded us that it is Vidalia onion time again. The SCV needs our support in their yearly fund raising project.

A request was made for the placement of an old family picture of a grandmother. Bobby Boykin suggested that it be contributed to the Museum of Coastal Plains for preservation and viewing and agreed to contact the family.

Dick Rountree talked about the Pitt County digitizing project of old pictures, which are in the Greenville Library for sharing. We were reminded that Debbie Webb and Peter Bileckyj are working, here in our library, on the picture collection which will be in the files for future use.

There are additional calendars available for purchase, and Sue reminded us to begin bringing family pictures to be considered for the 2008 calendar. Program topics for the coming months and workshop dates were announced.

Mickey Harris, a visitor from Greenville, talked about four Civil War trails that have been created in Pitt County.

Completing the business for the evening, Sue introduced John R. Peacock, III who spoke to us on "The Civil War in Eastern Carolina." John, better known as Jay, received his education in Louisiana and is now on the staff at Nash Community College. He talked primarily about the poor defense of Roanoke Island and the inability of the few who felt its importance to promote interest in keeping it safe from Union forces.

Confederate General Harvey Hill commanded troops on Roanoke Island and explained the importance of defending it, but few listened. His men were poorly trained, clothed and fed. General Hill was transferred and General Wise came. He asked for the troops to be strengthened, but the defense of the Island started too late, and they defended poorly. In 1862 General Ambrose E. Burnside led a masterful expedition of 15 regiments and 3 brigades on a land-sea operation in the capturing of the island. Even with the swamps, which many felt would keep the enemy out, the Union could not be stopped. After crossing rough waters due to storms, seasickness and other trials, Burnside brought his men ashore, eventually capturing Roanoke Island and later Elizabeth City, Edenton, and Plymouth, and gradually moved farther into the state. Most of eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia surrendered. By July of 1863, the Union raided Greenville, Tarboro and Rocky Mount areas destroying in their path.

The south was not prepared, was poorly armed, and ignored the call for readiness. The loss of Roanoke Island was a big strategic blow to the confederacy, but also the loss of eastern North Carolina products was a serious issue.

Jay was an interesting speaker, and at the end of his talk there was a good discussion with much interest among the members.

*Frances W. Roberson*

## WILLIAMS CEMETERY

### Marion "Pete" Williams

[Editor's note: This note was included in a message written March 27, 2007, from Pete Williams to Henry Powell.]

"I took it upon myself to clean all the overgrown bushes and vines from the old cemetery located on Old Bailey Rd., past Horne's Church and just across Toisnot Creek. My triple great grandfather and mother are buried there; about 1½ to 2 miles from the old Pilgrim Williams home on Ada Taylor Rd. Anyone interested can now read the few names and mostly initials and dates on the flagstone grave markers. About a half dozen markers reveal deaths in 1854, which poses the question of a possible contagious disease in that year.

## WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Local History Room awaits your research session. The collection of books and microfilm is very extensive. Plan to take advantage of our expanded research facility.

A special file cabinet has been added to house family history records in a secure manner. Those loose files already at the library are in the process of being filed. Your family records would be welcome additions. See Deborah Webb, Reference Librarian, to make your contribution.

The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking is available near the Broad Street Entrance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• National Genealogical Society, Annual Conference, Richmond, Va., May 16-19, 2007. See their web site for more details: http://ngsgenealogy.org

• The Durham-Orange Genealogical Society will hold a genealogy workshop Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 8:30 am-2:30 pm at the LDS Family History Center, 1050 Airport Rd. (now Martin Luther King, Jr.), Chapel Hill, N. C.

Program topics are: Getting Started in Genealogy; Finding Records; Triangle Area Genealogical Resources; Visual Chronicles, How to Tell Your Family's Most Meaningful Stories; Evaluating Some Computer Software for Use in Genealogical Research; Scotch-Irish [sic.] in North Carolina. For more information and to register online go to: http:www.rootsweb.com/~ncdogs/workshop2007/.

*"We live in the present moment of the past."*
T. S. Elliot

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**Banks, Walston, Williams, Williford, Woodard**

**April 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $3.00. Shipping cost for maps is $3.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 7% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
Total of items ordered $_____ Shipping $_____ Sales Tax $_____ Total of Order $_____

☐ Check Enclosed

Ship to: _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

☐ Please enroll me as a member of WCGS. **I enclose $20 for personal membership & subscription to *Trees***. Please allow 3-5 weeks for shipping on all orders. **You may order books & membership through our website. http://www.wcgs.org.**

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# TREES OF WILSON

## Wilson's Family Heritage

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

May 2007 Volume 16 Number 5

## President's Message

In March, I asked "How well do you know your ancestors?" In April, I suggested sources that might provide answers to some of your questions. This month, I include some ways that you can use the information that you found to recreate what the lifestyle of your ancestor might have been like.

Compile a combination of birth and marriage records. Calculate the age at the time of marriage. Does it differ during a 50 year time period? Does it differ from men to women?

Calculate from birth and death records the average age of death for men and women for the time period. Does this differ from men to women? What percentage of women die during their childbearing years?

Study your ancestors' neighborhoods in the census records. What was the average family size? How much land did each family own? Where had they been born? What were their occupations? What would a graph of their ages tell you?

Find recipes from the time period you are researching and try them.

Make candles, soap, cheese, sausage, or anything authentic to the place and time of your ancestor.

Attend heritage days or living history museums reflecting the time period and location you are studying.

Visit the ancestral farm or homesite. Tour the home and/or walk the farm if they still exist. Find drawings or sketches of home styles traditional to the area where they lived.

Use your original sources and architectural drawings to create a drawing of a typical home floor plan and/or map of the farm.

(source: "Who Made the Bread?" by Peggy Ryskamp at 1999 NGS Conference)

*Sue Evans Powell*

## MAY 29TH MEETING
### Wilson County Public Library Assembly Room, 7:00 PM

Please join us for our regular meeting on May 29th to learn more about genealogical research into Welsh ancestry.

Peter Thompson, a native of Wales, will speak to us about his personal experience as he talks about "Who would be a Jones in Wales" and about facts he discovered when doing his genealogical research which he calls "The Prince and the Pauper."

It has been said that every Welsh family has a relative who emigrated in the nineteenth century. Was one or more of them your ancestor?

Programs for the coming months are:

June 26: Social

September 25: Ray King, subject to be announced

October 30: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

November 27: Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers, Show and Tell, Social

## FOUNDING FAMILIES

The work on the book, *Wilson County's Founding Families,* has proceeded very slowly during the continuing illness since March 2006 of co-editor Henry Powell. He is back at home now, and, hopefully, that will enable the remaining work to be done at a faster pace. We beg your patience while we take the time to do the job right.

## Highlights of This Issue

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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees.*

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
Dec. the 25th, 1863

Mr. John B. Woodard
Dear Brother:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at this time and hope you the same. Mary, I have not received those things that you sent to me by Wiley Batts. I haven't seen him. I should have been very glad to get them, but I don't expect to get them at all. I wish I was with you all today to help you eat some good meat and bread, and some good egg-nog. It is very cold here. We are putting up winter quarters. Bunyan, I want to know how long you are going to be at home. I want you to take care of everything. It is a very slow Christmas here today. I can't get anything to drink. I should be very glad if you could send me a good pair of boots by Edwin Ethridge, when he comes, and some shirts and pants by him when he comes. Tell Sister Betty to write to me and let me know all the news. I expect we shall all come to North Carolina. Tell Woodard Thomas to write to me and let me know all the news. I must come to a close, saying I remain your dear Brother until death.

GEORGE WOODARD,
so and good-bye.

*(continued on page 50)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

This chronicle is published by the Wilson County Genealogical Society, organized February 26, 1991. Address: P.O. Box 802, Wilson, NC 27894-0802. Telephone 252-243-1660. Internet address:

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(**Woodard Letters**, continued from page 49)*


Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
December 27th , 1863

Dear Brother,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hope you the same. Mary wrote to me that she sent my shirts by Wiley Batts. I haven't seen anything of them. I should [have] been very glad indeed to get them. I should be very glad of some good fresh meat and potatoes to eat. I don't get anything that is fit to eat. We don't draw any meat at all hardly. I have been suffering for five or six days; it is very hard times here. It was a very dull Christmas here. I should [have] been very glad to [have] been with you all to get something to drink and to eat, for I think [the] Southern Federacy is broke, for it seems so to me. I want to know what you are up to now. I want you to do the best you can. I should be glad if it was so that I could come home to stay. Tell Mary Gray to write to me and let me know all the news.

Write to me soon and let me know about my things, whether Wiley Batts started with them or not. If he hasn't started with them, I wish someone would bring them to me, for I need them bad indeed. I am barefooted and can't help myself at all. I suffer very much with cold. I wish you would get someone to come and fetch my pants and shirts and overcoat and a good pair of boots number sixes. I have nothing more to write at this time.

I remain your

Dear Brother until Death,
So good-bye.
GEORGE WOODARD

[envelope addressed to:]
Mr. W. W. Batts
Joyner's Depot
N. C.

# MARY WOODARD DANIEL OBITUARY

## *The Gospel Messenger*, 1898

### Contributed by J. Robert Boykin

MRS. MARY E. DANIEL.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Daniel, daughter of Calvin and Winnifred Woodard, was born at their home six miles south east of Wilson, N. C., October 24, 1849; married George Thomas Daniel, son of Elder John H. Daniel, February 18, 1871; she and her husband were baptized by my father, Elder C. B. Hassell, into the fellowship of White Oak church, in Wilson County, N. C., May 5, 1876; her husband died February, 6, 1894; and she entered into rest April 29, 1898, and on the next day her remains were interred, beside those of her husband, in their family cemetery. Of their seven children, five survive them—John, Bettie Thigpen, Fannie Grantham, Mary, and Winnie.

Sister Daniel was a woman of fine intelligence and deep experience. She was most industrious, economical, truthful, honest, sincere, and self-denying, and highly esteemed by her poor neighbors for her kind and wise ministrations to them in times of sickness and distress. She was a priceless blessing to her husband and children, and reared the latter in useful, moral, and honorable habits and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. She was especially devoted to the welfare of the church of Christ, and wished to see all its members walk worthy of their high vocation. She dearly enjoyed the preaching of the gospel of the Son of God; and the blessed and holy truths of the gospel were a precious comfort and support to her in all the severe and manifold sufferings and trials that she was called upon to endure. All her children were with her in her last hours. The hallowed memory of their godly parents will be cherished by them as long as they live; … SYLVESTER HASSELL.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON WOODARD HEIRS PETITION

### N. C. State Archives, Supreme Court, Series #8879, Thomas Stancell and Wife and others To the Court, Wilson County, January 1867

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

**State of North Carolina**

Wilson County

Be it remembered that on the 25th day of July AD. 1865 Thomas Stancil & wife Elizabeth A. W W Batts & Wife Margaret P. John B Woodard Mary J Edwards and James S Woodard D W Woodard S. O Woodard M E Woodard and Jno B Woodard Jr. the heirs at Law of Gray W Woodard the last five infants by their next friend and Guardian James Barnes files a petition in the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the county aforesaid in these words.

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Wilson County July Term A D. 1865

To the worshipful the Justices of The Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Wilson County. The Petition of Thomas Stancil & wife Elizabeth A., W W Batts & wife Margaret P. Jno B. Woodard Mary J Edwards James S Woodard D W Woodard S. O. Woodard M E Woodard and Jno B Woodard Jr the heirs at law of Gray B Woodard the last five infants by their next friend and Guardian James Barnes of said County respectfully showeth unto your worships that Geo W Woodard of the County of Wilson deceased was in his lifetime and at the time of his death seized in fee simple of some other good estate of inheritance to him and his heirs of a tract of land lying & being situated in the County of Wilson adjoining the Lands of Robt Bynum, Jno B. Woodard & others containing one hundred & ninety five acres. All which lands are situated lying and being in the County of Wilson & being so seized, the said Geo W Woodard did depart this life intestate leaving the above mentioned petitioners as tenants in common in the proportion of 1/5th to each, the heirs of Gray Woodard taking one share. Your petitioners further show unto your worships that they are desirous of having a fair just and equal partition of the said Lands made between them in order that their respective shares and propotions thereof may be allotted hereto and enjoyed in severality. To The end therefore that a partition may be made of the said Lands between your petitioners that each ones share or propotion thereof may be allotted and conveyed to them and their heirs and assigns and that your petitioners may severally hold and enjoy their several allotments of the said lands according to the nature thereof in severality and that all proper and necessary conveyances and assurances may be executed for conveying such partition into effect and that your petitioners may have such other & further relief in the premises as the nature & circumstances of the case may require & to your worships to appoint five commissioners to divide & appropriate said lands between your petitioners as herein before prayed for according to act of General Assembly in such cases made and provided and as to your worships shall seem proper and requisite & your petitioners will ever pray &c.

G W. Blount solic

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Thomas Stancell & wife Elizabeth A. W W Batts & wife Margaret P. Jno B. Woodard Mary J Edwards Jas S Woodard D W Woodard S O Woodard M E Woodard & Jno B Woodard Jr the heirs at law of Gray B Woodard the last five infants by their next friend & Guardian James Barnes petitioners are tenants in common in the land mentioned in the petition, it is on motion ordered by the Court that Thomas H. Skinner Isaac B Farmer D W Barnes H F Barnes & Jno Proctor be appointed commissioners to divide the lands described in the petition into five equal shares and to allot to each of the petitioners Thos Stancill & wife Elizabeth A. W W Batts & wife Margaret P. John B Woodard.

Mary J. Edwards and James S Woodard D. W. Woodard S. O Woodard M E. Woodard and John B Woodard Jr the heirs at Law of Gray W Woodard the last five infants by their next friend and Guardian James Barnes one equal share thereof and if an equitable division cannot be otherwise effected then and in that case they are to charge the more valuable dividend or dividereds with such sum or sums as they shall judge necessary to be paid to the dividered or dividends of inferior value in order to make the division equal. A majority of the said commissioners are to have power to act, said commissioners before they proceed to the execution of this order are to be duly sworn by the Sheriff or some Justice of the Peace of Wilson County & they are to report their proceedings to the next term of this Court under their hands & seals. And on the 4th Monday of October A. D. 1865 at the Court House in Wilson before A G Brooks, G W Stanton Jno Wilkerson & C J. Rountree, Justices of Said Court report as follows:

State of North Carolina.
Wilson County

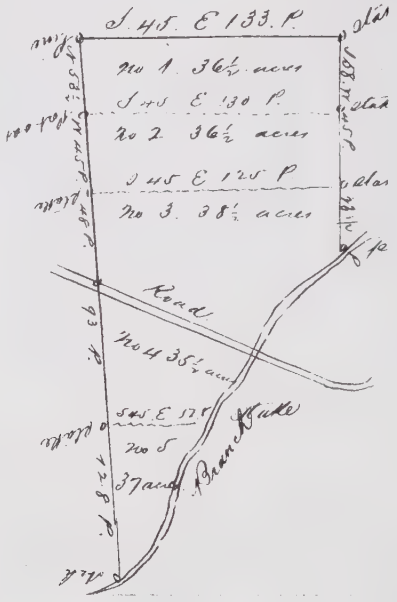
To the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions. Octo Term AD 1865 we the undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County having been duly sworn proceeded on the 10th day of August 1865 to divide and make partition between and among Thomas Stancel & Wife Elizabeth and Jno B Woodard and W W Batts and wife Margaret P. and Mary J Edwards, and the heirs of Gray W Woodard deceased tenants in common of the lands decended to them as heirs at law of Gray W. Woodard [sic.] deceased and having the lands surveyed & divided

*(Continued on page 52)*

*(George Washington Woodard, continued from page 51)*
in lots as follows:

Lot No. 1. 36½ acres valued at $109. 50
" No. 2 36½ acres valued at $109. 50
" No. 3 38½ acres valued at 308.
" No. 4 35½ acres valued at 213.50
" No. 5 37 acres valued at 92.50

The said heirs drawed as follows: heirs of Gray W. Woodard drawed lot No 1 adjoining The lands of Robt. Bynum Jno R Proctor and others. Lot No 2 drawn by Jno B Woodard adjoining The lands of Robert Bynum Gray W Woodard heirs & others. Lot No 3 drawn by Mary J Edwards adjoining the lands of Robt Bynum Jno B Woodard & others. Lot No 4 drawn by Thomas Stancil and wife adjoining The lands of Robt Bynum Mary J Edwards & others.
Lot No 5 drawn by WW Batts and wife adjoining the lands of Robt Bynum Thomas Stancil and others. The boundary of each lot is set forth in the plot herewith attached—




Lot No 1 Reserves from No 3 $57.10
Lot No 2 Reserves from No 3 $57.10
Lot No 3 pays No 5 17.20
Lot No 4 pays No 5 56.90
Valuation $833
Each Share $166.60

T H Skinner
H F Bridgers
D W Barnes
I B. Farmer
Jno Proctor Sen.

And thereupon the case is continued to the 4th Monday of January 1866 at which last mentioned time at the Court House in Wilson before A G Brooks Joshua Barnes and James R Barnes Justices of said Court the party aforesaid came into Court and said case is continued to the 4th Monday of April AD. 1866. At which last mentioned time at the Court House in Wilson before A G Brooks W G Jordan and David W Barnes Justices of said Court the parties aforesaid came into Court & the said W W Batts & wife Mary P. Jno B Woodard James S Woodard Jr D W Woodard S. O Woodard, M E Woodard and J B. Woodard Jr. by their attorney Geo N. Strong except to the report of the Commissioners in the following words & figures to wit

Thomas Stancil wife & others to the Court — Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions April Term 1866

W W Batts & wife Margaret P. Jno B Woodard & James S Woodard D W Woodard S. O. Woodard M E Woodard & Jno B. Woodard, Jr. the heirs of Gray W Woodard deceased except to the report of the Commissioners on the following particulars

1st Lot No 1. consists entirely of wood land and is cut off from the public road and is over valued having scarcely any market value at all.
2nd Same remarks are applied to lot No 2 as to Lot No 1
3rd Lot No. 3 is very greatly undervalued having being worth from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars or there abouts
4th Lot No 4 is greatly undervalued being worth some eight hundred dollars.
5th Lot No 5 has no wood land is cut off from the road and has scarcely any market value.

Respectfully submitted
G W Blount &
G N Strong Sols

It is also moved on behalf the petitioners W W Batts & wife Margaret P. Jno B Woodard and James S Woodard Jr D W Woodard S O Woodard M E Woodard & J B Woodard Jr that the petition be dismissed as to them on the grounds that

*(Continued on page 53)*

*(George Washington Woodard, continued from page 52)*
actual partition of the lands mentioned in the petition cannot be made without injury to them the petitioners, which motion was refused whereupon the petitioners above named prayed an appeal to Superior Court which was granted upon their entering into bond in the sum of $300^{00}$ with D W Barnes as surety, said bond is duly executed in open Court and is herewith sent.

I, B F. Briggs Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County and State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing contains a full true & perfect transcript of the record, in an action of the Petition of Thomas Stancell Wife & others to the Court for partition of land, lately pending in said Court. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed the seal of Said Court at office in Wilson this 29th day of May AD 1866

B. F. Briggs
Clerk

| Rill of Cost | |
|---|---|
| Attorney Blount | $10.00 |
| Tax | 1 00 |
| Petition | 1 50 |
| Order | 60 |
| Subpoena | 27½ |
| Sheriff Davis | 60 |
| Witness of J D. Scott | 1 61 |
| " Jene Pittman | 1 61 |
| Appeal Bond | 90 |
| Transcript | 3 00 |
| Seal | 37½ |
| Judgment | 1 12½ |
| Bill Cost | 52½ |
| | $23.12 |
| 2 Continuances | 90 |
| | $24.02 |

State of North Carolina
Wilson County

At a Superior Court of Law began and held for the County of Wilson at the Court House in the Town of Wilson on the 10th Monday after the 4th Monday in March AD. 1866 his honor Danl G. Fowle judge presiding the following proceedings were had to wit:

Thomas Stancil Wife & others (Exparte) — Petition for the Division of Land

To the Court

Motion to dismiss made before Fowle, Judge at Wilson Superior Court. Appellants & others filed an exparte petition for partition of land - order of petitioners granted - Report made designating several parts into which land was divided and assigning one to each of petitioners - Upon coming in of the report petitioners moved to dismiss the Petition for Partition - Motion refused on the ground of the want of power to grant it. - Appeal prayed and granted.

Danl G Fowle
Judge &c

| Rill of Cost | |
|---|---|
| County Court Cost | $24.02 |
| Tax | 2.50 |
| Docketing | 1.50 |
| Judgment | 1.12½ |
| Transcript | 3.00 |
| Appeal Bond | 90 |
| Bill of Cost | 52½ |
| Witness D W Barnes | 2 45 |
| " Jene Pittman | 1 75 |
| " Jno Procter | 1 85 |
| | 39.62 |

I, Thos J Rowe, clerk of the Superior Court of law for the County & State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing contains a full true & perfect transcript of the record in an action of Petition for Division of Land lately pending in said court between & among Thos Stancel wife & others

In testimony whereof I have set my hand & affixed the seal of said Court at office in Wilson this the 5th June 1866.

Thos. J. Rowe, clerk

## The North Carolina Business Directory 1877 and 1878 Wilson Count y

**Edited by Rev. Levi Branson.**

### Wilson County.

POPULATION IN 1870 –12,258.
White, 7,185; Colored, 5,073.
County Seat –Wilson.
POPULATION —1,036.
White, 749; Colored, 287.
Wilson (including township,) 3,170.

#### County Officers.

*Clerk Superior Court.* —H. C. Moss.
*Commissioners.* —
*Coroner.*__ __ _____.
*Register of Deeds.* –Thomas Jefferson Rowe.
*Sheriff.*__ __ _____.
*Solicitor.* –John N. Sherrard, 3d Dis.
*Surveyor.* –E. M. Nadal.
*Standard Keeper.* –A. Farmer.
*Treasurer.*__ __ _____.
*Coroner.* —H. W. Peel.

#### Courts.

Eighth Monday after second Monday in March and September.

#### Town Officers.

WILSON —*Mayor* —P. E. Hines.
*Commissioners.* —E. Rosenthal, W. J. Harris, J. A. Tynes, A. B. Palmer, H. C. Huggins.
*Constable.* —H. C. Huggins
BLACK CREEK —*Mayor.* —W. R. Newsome
*Commissioners.* —J. B. Barden, W. S. Anderson, B. Lucas, Simon Boswell, F. J. Woodard.
*Constable.*—Jas. Mason.
TOISNOT —*Mayor* —J. L.Bailey.
*Commissioners.* —J. D. Wells, P. J. Turnbull, J. W. Crowell, Dallas Carter, Burwell Brinkley.
*Constable.* –James Taylor.

#### Townships and Magistrates.

Wilson —F. W. Barnes, M. J. Edwards, T. C. Davis, Calvin Barnes, Robert J. Taylor.
Gardners 's —T. B. Bridgers, Cofield Barnes, Jesse M. Taylor.
Stantonsburg —Washington Barnes, J. T. Graves, D. G. Ward, Henry M. Thompson.
Taylor's —Wiley Farmer, T. J. Eatman, Joseph Farmer.
Black Creek —Jonathan Tomlinson, A. G. Brooks, Nathan Bass, W. R. Newsome.
Cross Roads —Jesse Lucas, D. A. Scott, Peter L Barnes.
Spring Hill —Wm. Watson, Jesse Kirby, Simon Barnes.
Saratoga —Seth H. Tyson, Benj. A. Howard, T. R. Eagles, Elbert Felton.
Old Fields —Larry B. Boyette, A. B. Boykin, J. F. Eatman.
Toisnot —J. H. Barclay, W. W. Flowers, J. W. Crowell, M. M. Williams.

#### Churches.

*Names, Post Offices, Pastors and Denom.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Toisnot, Wilson, P. D. Gold, | Prim Bap |
| White Oak, Wilson, Jesse Baker, | Prim Bap |
| Black Creek, Black Creek, W. W. Barnes, | Prim Bap |
| Upper Black Creek, Black Creek, Kinchen Crumpler, | Prim Bap |
| Upper Town Creek, Joyner 's, B. P. Pitt, | Prim Bap |
| Contentnea, Wilson, T. W. Wells, | Prim Bap |
| St. Timothy, Wilson, A. A. Benton, | Epis |
| Wilson, Wilson, ____, | Bap |
| Union, Wilson, ____, | Bap |
| Wilson, Wilson, R. A. Willis, | Meth |
| Barefoots, Wilson, R. A. Willis, | Meth |
| Batts ', Joyner's, ____, | Meth |
| Mt. Zion, Joyner's, ____, | Meth |
| Pleasant Grove, Wilson, ____, | Meth |

#### Hotels.

*Names, Post Offices and Proprietors.*

Railroad House, Wilson, Mrs. R. H. Blount.
Devereaux House, Wilson, Miss Harriet Devereaux.
Hotel, Wilson, S. E. Blount.

#### Lawyers.

*Names and Post Office*

Blount (G. W.) & Blount (Jno. W.), Wilson.
Woodard Jno. E., Wilson.
Deans A. B., Conner (H. G.) & Woodard (F. A.), Wilson.
Woodard (Jas. A.) & Murray (H. P.), Wilson.
Kenan & Dunham, Wilson.
Lancaster, Jno. "
Moss H. C. "
Shepherd J. E. "
Singletary R. W. "

#### Manufactories.

*Manufactories, Post Offices and Prop'rs.*

Agricultural Implements, Wilson, Mayo & Co.
Cabinet Making, Wilson, Wooten & Stevens.
Carriages and Buggies, Wilson, G. H. Griffin.
Carriages and Buggies, Black Creek, Anderson & Woodard.
Buggies and Carriages, Wilson, Hackney & Murray.
Gunsmithing, Wilson, Barry Ward.
Iron Founders and Agricultural Implements, Wilson, Farmer & Wainwright.
Contracting and Building, Wilson, O. Lipscomb & Co.
Contracting and Building, Wilson, R. D. Alley.
Contracting and Building, Wilson, A. A. Lum.
Harness, Wilson, G. H. Griffin.
Tannery, Wilson, Barnes & Barnes.
Turpentine, Wilson, Willie Daniel.
Tinning, Wilson, Wyatt, Palmer & Granger.

#### Merchants.

*Names, Post Offices, Line of Business*

| | |
|---|---|
| Applewhite, J. H., Wilson, | G S |
| Anderson N., Wilson, | Ins Ag't |
| Briggs & Gilliam Mrs., Wilson, | Millinery |
| Bennett & Stith, Wilson, | Restaurant |

*(Continued on Page 55)*

*(**Business Directory,** continued from page 54)*

Benton H. E., Wilson, Gun and Locksmith
Bass L., Black Creek, G S
Briggs B. F., Black Creek, G S
Barnes & Barnes, Wilson, G S
Batts W. C., Wilson, Gro and Liq
Branch, Hadley & Co, Wilson, G S Fertilizer and Cotton Buyers
Briggs B. F., Wilson, Watches and Jewelry
Bullock W. J., Wilson, G S
Bynum & Daniel, Wilson, Fancy Groceries, Tobacco, &c
Cobb H. C., Wilson, Barber
Cotton R. R. & Co., Wilson, Dry Goods and Gro
Christmas N. C., Wilson, Gro and Liq
Crafton J. A., Wilson, Gro and Liq
Clark Bros., Wilson, Gro
Clark J. A., Wilson, Fertilizers
Churchwell, Wilson, Jewelry and Watches
Davis A. C. & Co., Wilson G S and Fertilizers
Deans A. B., Wilson, Ins. Agent
Friar Lawrence, Wilson, Painting
Felton Thos., Wilson, G S
Fulcher L. H., Wilson, G S
Gilliam T. B., Wilson, Confec
Gay T. D., Wilson, Gro
Green Z. H., Wilson, Dry Goods and Gro
Griffin & Sharp, Toisnot, G S
Gardner T. J., Wilson, G S
Holt Joseph S., Black Creek, G S
Hales J. J., Toisnot, G S
Harris W. J., Wilson, Gro and Liq
Hays L. M., Wilson, G S
Heilbroner L. & Bro., Wilson, Dry Goods and Clothing
Harrison R. N., Wilson, G S and Livery Stables
Jackson H. C., Wilson, Painting
Jackson J. J., Wilson, Bar
King & Moye, Wilson, Drugs
Lucas Jesse, Black Creek, G S
McNair C., Wilson, Conf and Bakery
Moye M. T., Wilson, Drugs and Seeds
Michal J. & Co., Wilson, Dry Goods and Clothing
Nadal A., Wilson, G S
Parker & Wells, Toisnot, G S
Palmer & Green, Wilson, Hardware
Peacock C. C., Drugs
Rosenthal E., Wilson, Dry Goods
Rawls J. G. & Bro., Wilson, Watches and Jewelry
Rountree M. & Co., Wilson, Dry Goods and G S
Spier S. E., Wilson, Dry Goods
Strickland C. B., Black Creek, G S
Selby John, Wilson, Produce
Sugg & Anderson, Wilson, Tob and Confec
Thomas J. J., Wilson, Dry Goods
Tyson B. H. & Co., Wilson, Dry Goods
Thorne E. D., Toisnot, G S
Turnbull P. J. & Bro., Toisnot, G S
Tynes J. A., Wilson, G S
Waters E., Wilson, Dry Goods and Gro
Weil J., Wilson, Dry Goods
Woodard S., Black Creek, G S
Wells J. D. & Co., Toisnot, G S
Winstead, Rice & Co., Toisnot, G S
Ward & Moye, Wilson, G S
Warren S. M., Wilson, Dry Goods
Waters Sam'l. B., Wilson, Gro and Liq
Westbrook C. W., Wilson, Nursery
Wiggins James T., Wilson, G S
Williams Mrs. O. E., Wilson, Millinery
Wotten & Stephens, Wilson, Undertakers
Wyatt R. L., Wilson, Stoves and Tinware
Young J. T. S., Wilson, G S Monument and Gravestones
Young C. A. & Co., Wilson, Dry Goods and Fertilizers.

**Ministers, Residents.**

*Names, Post Offices and Denominations.*

Willis R. A., Wilson, Meth
Barnes W. W., Wilson, Prim Bap
Gold P. D., Wilson, Prim Bap
Cobb Wm. H., Joyner's, Dis of Christ
Hines Peter E., Wilson, Dis of Christ
Moye M. T., Wilson, Dis of Christ
Taylor R. J., Wilson, Dis of Christ

**Mills.**

*Kinds, Post Offices and Proprietors.*

Saw, (steam), Wilson, Joshua Barnes.
Corn and Cotton Gin, (steam), Wilson, R. J. Taylor.
Cotton Gin, (steam), Wilson, W. M. Gay.
Corn and Flour, (water) Saw, (water) Saw, (steam) Wilson, G. W. Barefoot.
Corn and Flour, Wilson, R. H. Baker.
Corn and Flour, Wilson, J. M. Taylor.
Corn and Flour, Wilson, Jas. Tomlinson.
Corn, Toisnot, H. Winstead.
Corn, Toisnot, W. D. Farmer.
Flour and Corn, Wilson, Noah Strickland.
Flour and Corn, Wilson, H. G. Whitehead.
Flour and Corn, Wilson, Thos. Felton.

**Newpapers.**

The Wilson Advance, Wilson, (Demooratic,) weekly, Williams & Hobgood, Proprietors and Job Printers.
Zion 's Landmark, Wilson, (Primitive Baptist) monthly, ___ ____.

**Physicians.**

*Names and Post Offices*

Anderson W. S., Black Creek.
Armstrong J. H., Joyner's.
Applewhite Thos J., Statonsburg.
Barham R. G., Wilson
Barnes Ed., Wilson.
Foreman J. W., Wilson (Dentist)
Gordon E. S., Toisnot.
Herring, N. B., Wilson.
King R. W., Wilson.
Moore A. D., Wilson.
Peacock, C. C., Wilson.
Ruflin D. K. [sic. Ruffin, John K. (1880 Census)], Wilson.

*(Continued on page 56)*

*(Business Directory, continued from page 55)*
Stith A. L., Wilson.
Stallings J. B., Wilson.
Telphure David, Wilson.
Winstead J. H., Joyner 's.

**Post Offices.**

Black Creek, Stantonsburg,
Toisnot, Wilson (c. h.)

**Schools.**

*Names, Post Office and Principals.*

Wilson Collegiate Institute, for both sex, Wilson, Sylvester Hassell, A. M., President.
Wilson Collegiate Seminary, for Young Ladies, Wilson, J. H. Foy and J. B. Brewer.

**Local Corporation.**

*Names, Post Office, President, &c.*

First National Bank, Wilson, F. W. Barnes, Pres.; E. Rosenthall, Vice Pres.; John Hurchinson, Cashier. Capital, $50,000.

**Farmers.**

*Post Office and Names*

BLACK CREEK—J. W. Aycock, J. M. Cooley, Jesse Bass, J. Bass, A. Brooks, A. Branch, J. P. Barden, R. M. Cox, M. Darden, J. Daniel, David Davis, John Dew, Jos. Terrell, L. Newsom, N. Newsom.
STANTONSBURG—G. W. Stanton, W. Woodard, S. S. Woodard, Elizabeth Whitley, Susan Edmundson, A. G. Brooks, W. T. Brewer, E. Barnes, G. T. Daily, W. S. Dunn, J. H. Applewhite, W. H. Applewhite, Wm Barnes, Jr., Isabella Barnes, Washington Barnes, F. M. Moye, W. Simms, A. J. Heath, R. W. Edmundson.
WILSON—Miss S. J. Adams, W. H. Battle, Mrs. T. Barnes, Wm. J. Bullock, E. D. Robbins, C. Barnes, John Barnes, G. J. Barnes, A. J. & G. W. Barefoot, Elizabeth Page, Willie Daniel, W. J. Selly, Mrs. F. L. Jenkins, John Dew, Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, S. B. Farmer, J. B. Farmer, S. Farmer, L. D. Freeman, Mrs. S. R. Hines, T. J. Hadley, Dr. R. W. King, H. C. Morse, E. M. Nadal, M. Rountree, James Rountree, Mrs. M. E. Rountree, J. Smith, E. D. Strickland, Mrs. B. M. Selby.

**Correspondents Agr 'l Dep't.**

R. H. King, Wilson; Frank W. Barnes, Wilson.

**Land, Live Stock and Values.**

LAND —Acres, 203,554; Value, $1,014,842; Town Property, $282,655. Aggregate, $1,297,487. [sic.]
LIVE STOCK —Horses, 1,126; Value $77,352; Mules, 993; Value, $77,602; Jacks, 1; Value $15; Jennets, 4; Value, $15; Goats, 300; Value $303; Cattle, 4,302; Value, $38,143; Hogs, 14,216; Value, $20,769; Sheep, 1,854; Value, $1,838.

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*Surface.*—Level, sandy and generally rich; very productive when well drained and cultivated; well adapted to trucking.
*Staples.*—Cotton, Corn, Sweet Potatoes and Naval Stores.

## RAYMOND EATMAN CEMETERY
### Contributed by Deans Eatman

Oldfields Township, Wilson Co. N. C.
Location N 35 43 618 W 78 06 301 Accuracy 16'
Going West on Old Raleigh Road, turn left on High Road. Go about .65 mile. Turn right on path. Go about .25 mile. Cemetery is on the left.
Survey by Tommy Strickland and Charles Eatman, August 2006

Deans, John B. 1868-1937

Deans, Sallie F. 1857-1935

(Daniel) Annie Wife of D.C. Daniel Born Jan. 10, 1881 Died Feb. 23, 1919
Weep not, she is not dead but sleeping.

Daniels, David Clifton Apr. 20, 1872 Mar. 19, 1939

Eatman, Saloma J. Born 1838 Died 1918, Gone but not forgotten.

Eatmon, Mary Isadore Born Nov. 28, 1873 Died Mar. 8, 1965 (See Note.)

Eatmon, Raymond Born Sep. 20, 1831, Died Apr. 7, 1907 Death is the crown of life.

Eatmon, Rebecca Daniel His Wife Born Mar. 29, 1842 Died Mar. 29, 1921, Death is the crown of life.

Leonard, Ella Nov. 11, 1867 Mar. 7, 1935, Although they sleep, their memory doth live.

(Leonard) Gertie Dau. of J.W. & Ella Leonard Born Dec. 25, 1888 Died May 11, 1890, Suffer little children to come unto me.

(Leonard) Infant Dau. of J.W. & Ella Leonard Born & Died Aug. 16, 1898, Of such is the kingdom of heaven.

(Leonard) Jenie R. Dau. of J.W. & Ella Leonard Born Dec. 14, 1896 Died Sept. 16, 1898, Gone to dwell with the happy and the blest.

Leonard, John William Sep. 11, 1862 Oct. 28, 1915, Although they sleep, their memory doth live.

Leonard, Raymond Percy Aug. 30, 1890 July 10, 1956, May he find joy in the life everlasting.

Also there are 5 or 10 unmarked graves.

Note: Mary Eatmon. Inscription on back of tombstone:

Fond Memories.
Sleep!
Sleep on in restful slumber until that great and wonderous day whence smouldering dust of thy remains shall then come fourth in shining array when the dead in Christ shall surely rise on that peaceful shore far above the skies around the great white throne of God where never will be any more good-byes.

Also has small marker at foot that says "Aunt"

## HARTWELL WILLIFORD, SON OF THOMAS WILLIFORD

### Hugh B. Johnston files

Hartwell Williford, son of Thomas Williford, was born about 1749 in Southampton County, Virginia, and first appeared on the records of the Edgecombe County Court on May 22, 1770. On November 16, 1771, he paid Thomas Williford £20 Proclamation Money for 100 acres north of Pine Log Swamp on a prong of Tyancokey Swamp.[1] On October 20, 1774, he was appointed to a Petit Jury. On December 20, 1775, he sold the preceding 100 acres to Willis McDade for £40 Proclamation Money.[2] On February 3, 1778, he paid William Gay £40 Proclamation Money for 160 acres north of a prong of Town Creek (from a former grant to Jesse Gilbert).[3]

Hartwell Williford was a Patriot during the Revolutionary War,[4] but details of his service are lacking. [a later insert: Hartwell Whittleford [Williford] £1.15.2 Moved to Georgia solvent. (N. C. Genealogical Society Journal, VIII, No. 1.) "Claims of British Merchants after the Revolutionary War."]

On May 24, 1780, he was appointed a Constable of Edgecombe County, and Tax Assessor was added on August 29, 1781. On October 28, 1782, Governor Alexander Martin granted him 350 acres south of Town Creek adjoining William Dixon, William Robbins, Britain Boseman, Great Cabin Branch, William Brand, and Benjamin Edwards.[5] On April 12,1783, he assigned 300 acres of the grant to Thomas Brand for two-thirds of its cost, witnessed by Henry Lancaster.[6]

Hartwell Williford married Zilpha Gardner, daughter of George and Mary Gardner of Mill Branch. She was called daughter and received £0.5.0 North Carolina Money in her father's will on December 13, 1786.[7] The Edgecombe County Court replaced him as Constable on November 2, 1784. On January 13, 1787, he sold John Bell for £100 in specie the 160 acres north of Town Creek, witnessed by John Williams and Drury (D) Williams.[8] On October 19, 1787, he sold John Bell for £30 in specie 150 acres on Town Creek and north of Little Swamp adjoining Joseph Brand, Great Cabin Branch, William Brand, and Benjamin Edwards, witnessed by Drury (w) and Mouring (x) Williams.[9] On February 8, 1790, he paid James Gains £100 in specie for 200 acres south of Little Swamp adjoining John Stone, Jacob Page, and Barnaby Barron, witnessd by Joseph and Ridley Farmer.[10]

In the Edgecombe County Census 1790, Hartwell Williford was listed with one male over sixteen, one male under sixteen, and seven females. On November 20, 1791, he sold Naman Mills for £20 in specie 50 acres, witnessed by Taylor and Molley (x) Gill.[11] On January 29, 1795, he sold Edward Pittman for £37.10.0 current money 100 acres north of Cattail Branch adjoining Jacob Page, John Stone, William Rogers, Jesse Pitman, and Naaman Mills, witnessed by Hardy Horn and Briton (B) Barnes.[12] On February 2, 1795, he sold Mathew Dowding for $110.00 in silver dollars 100 acres south of Town Creek on Little Swamp adjoining Lewis Todd, John Stone, and Jacob Page, witnessed by Amos Johnston.[13]

On May 26, 1795, the Edgecombe County Court made reference to Captain Williford's District, of which John Williams was Constable. On March 1, 1797, Hartwell Williford and wife Zilpha (x)sold Barnaba Barron for £83 current money 110 acres south of Little Swamp adjoining Matthew Dowden and said Barron, witnessed by Arthur Dew and John Williams.[14] They did not appear in the Edgecombe County Census of 1800, so it is presumed that they moved away, probably to Tennessee.

[handwritten insert] 1805 Warren Co., GA Also Joel Williford Swanson Williford

Footnotes:

1. Deed Book D, p. 398.
2. Deed Book 3, p. 218.
3. Deed Book 3, p. 339.
4. Revolutionary War Accounts in the North Carolina State Archives: Book K, p. 95.
5. Deed Book 4, p. 263; Patent Book 48, p.195.
6. Deed Book 4, p. 448.
7. Will Book C, p. 97.
8. Deed Book 4, p. 517.
9. Deed Book 4, p. 674.
10. Deed Book 8, p. 809.
11. Deed Book 10, p. 25.
12. Deed Book 8, p. 889.
13. Deed Book 8, p. 453.
14. Deed Book 8, p. 825.

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

- *Burke County, North Carolina 1880 Federal Census,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Burke County, North Carolina 1900 Federal Census,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Burke County, North Carolina Death Certificates 1913-1924,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Cemeteries of Burke County: Volume 1,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Cemeteries of Burke County: Volume 3,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Cemeteries of Burke County: Volume 4,* Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Comprehensive Full-Name Index for Cemeteries of Burke County, Vol. 1-4*

## 1876 MAP OF THE TOWN OF WILSON

In January of 2007 one of our members alerted readers of our e-group about a map of Wilson advertised for sale on the internet by an antiques dealer.

One of our WCGS members purchased the map which was found to be a copy of a copy of the original—still a good buy because it is a beautiful map and in good condition with no obliterating marks. A copy has been furnished to WCGS.

The map is undated and at first glance appeared to be the same map as the 1882 map of the Town of Wilson. Further study revealed some differences between the "working copy" of the 1882 map found in State Archives but no differences in the "published copy" which has been available since the 150th anniversary of the Town of Wilson.

J. Robert Boykin, local historian, appraiser, and WCGS member, believes that the map shows more development than was likely between the 1872 map and 1876. Also there are some differences in the map and the 1877-78 business directory included in this issue of *Trees.*

## 400th ANNIVERSARY FOR SOME OF US

### First British Settlers Arrive in America

### By Henry Powell from information © by The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

King James I of Britain approved a charter for the Virginia Company of London to establish a settlement in the mid-Atlantic region of North America. The sponsors were the Merchants Company of London, the trade guild established in the days when the City of London housed the Roman forum. The purposes of the colony were to find a trade route to India and to search for gold.

On May 14, 1607, the settlers landed on Jamestown Island and began the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Many tales have been told about these original 214 settlers. Most appear to have been fabrications, such as the claim that many of the settlers were "gentlemen" who did not know how to work. Archaeological evidence does not support this. The group set to work and quickly built a fort. Despite their efforts at protection, the local Indians attacked continuously which took a toll on the population.

Settler John Smith organized the colony under structured leadership which kept the colony from dissolving. He then departed in 1609 for London to plead for assistance. "The starving time followed."

By spring, there were only 60 of the original settlers remaining. Lord De La Ware arrived as the new governor along with supply ships and more settlers thus saving the colony from failure. The second arrival of supply ships brought additional settlers.

The first representative assembly in the New World convened in the Jamestown church on July 30, 1619. The same year, a Dutch slave trader exchanged his cargo of Africans for food. The Africans became indentured servants, similar in legal position to many poor Englishmen who traded several years labor in exchange for passage to America. The slave system did not fully develop until the 1680's.

Jamestown Island was abandoned in 1698 when the colonial capital was moved to Williamsburg, Virginia. Until the American Revolution, ships arrived regularly from Europe bearing more settlers who spread throughout the eastern seaboard. As land grew more scarce and tobacco production increased, migration began into the adjoining areas.

Waterways were the highways of the colonial period. The Tar and Neuse Rivers provided access to our parent counties. Following the courses of the rivers, the settlers began to find promising land along the creeks off those rivers. Contentnea Creek, which flows into the Neuse River, was navigable into the middle of the present Wilson County. There is a stone outcrop known as "Indian Steps" about 100 yards below the present Wiggins Mill which was the "end of the line," so to speak, for travel by boat up the creek.

There was also a fairly well established land route through Rich Square and Tarboro, North Carolina, by 1750. John Thomas, the first recorded settler in what is now Wilson County, probably took this route to stake his claim on Toisnot Creek in 1740.

A review of the lists of settlers who survived the first two years at Jamestown and those who arrived on the first and second supply ships and survived will reveal surnames of families who eventually settled in what is now Wilson County. However, a surname on these lists does not mean that that individual had descendants who came here. Use your imagination to consider how the spellings might have changed. An easy one to spot is Bayley for Bailey.

For a more thorough history of the Jamestown Colony and a complete list of the settlers who survived visit http://www.apva.org

Further information on the individual families may be found in *Cavaliers and Pioneers* compiled by Nell Marion Nugent published by the Virginia State Library and Archives. A copy of the multi-volume set is shelved in the Wilson County Public Library.

If you have an ancestor who arrived in Virginia prior to 1699, you may wish to look into membership in the Jamestowne Society. More information can be found at http://www.jamestowne.org

**SOME SURNAMES, AMONG THE SURVIVORS, OF WILSON COUNTY'S "FOUNDING FAMILIES"**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bayley | Haryson | Robinson |
| Barnes | Hellyard | Rodes |
| Bell | Hunt | Rose |
| Brookes | Johnson | Scot/Skot |
| Burras | Lewes | Smyth |
| Clarke | Love | Taler |
| Cotton | Martin | Walker |
| Dawson | Miler | Ward |
| Dixon | Nichols | Webbe |
| Edward | Peacock | White |
| Ellys | Perkins | Williams |
| Graves | Phelps | Wotton |
| Harper | Powell | Yonge |

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COPY OF FOUNDING FAMILIES TO COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?**

**CAN YOU GIVE A LITTLE TIME TO HELP MAKE THAT POSSIBLE?**

**CAN YOU SPOT AN ERROR?**

**WE NEED PROOFREADERS TO REVIEW SMALL PORTIONS OF *WILSON COUNTYS' FOUNDING FAMILIES* FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS AND MINOR OMISSIONS.**

You would be provided with a small section of the text and a list of guidelines to use. You would look for errors such as no space between two words, paragraph indentions, omission of the year of a census record or township. You would not be asked to verify the facts or spelling of names.

Please let us know by phone (252) 243-1660, e-mail at info@wcgs.org or by mail at PO Box 802, Wilson NC 27984-0802 if you can help.

## MINUTES APRIL 2007 MEETING

The April meeting was called to order by Sue Powell, our president. She welcomed the members and introduced our guests. Sue gave a brief report on Henry's illness.

The minutes were approved as printed in Trees.

Sue had some exciting news about the "City of Wilson 1876 Map" that was topic of conversation on the E group awhile back. A WCGS member, who wishes to remain anonymous, purchased the map. He is sending copies to add to the WCGS map collection, and the map will be available for purchase.

Program topics for the coming months were announced. The Wilson County Historical Association featured WCGS member Guy Cox in their March 2007 newsletter.

Ken Burns' World War II Documentary "North Carolina's WWII Experience to Honor a Generation" will premier Sunday September 23 on UNC-TV. http://www.unctv/wwii

A new book has been added to the Library's Genealogy Room, *Wilson's WWII Veterans.* The book features original copies of veteran's pictures and captions that were printed in the Wilson Newspaper during WWII years.

After completing the business for the evening, Sue introduced Betty McCain and John Hackney who spoke to us on the Wilson County Historical Association's World War II project which began in 2004. Mrs. McCain explained the project and shared some of the materials that have been gathered, a collection of letters, photos, and certificates about the people from Wilson that served in the war. So far the collection only has the history of 142 Wilson County veterans. Five thousand Wilsonians fought in the war, and we lost 145 men. There are more stories to be told. She encouraged everyone, if you have family and friends who lived in Wilson County and fought in the war, to contribute their story. The group is preserving this history. After the collection is complete, it will be published. Mrs. McCain introduced John Hackney, a Charles L Coon graduate who fought in WWII. His first cousins, twelve of whom served in the military, got him interested in doing this project. Mr. Hackney told interesting war stories about his Wilson friends that have been collected. He passed around a photo of a briefing of the 97th Bomber Group on June 1, 1943, in North Africa prior to a bombing raid on Pantellaria Island. Britain's Sir Winston Churchill and Wilson's James C. Dempsey, Jr., were pictured with the group.

Alex Keown, from the Wilson Daily Times, was in the audience, and he wrote an article for the newspaper about our meeting and all the stories Mr. Hackney presented. You can read Mr Keown's article at http://www.wilsondaily.com/Wil_region/Local_News/288759404508091.php

The meeting adjourned with time for visiting and viewing some of the WWII stories and pictures.

## WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Local History Room awaits your research session. The collection of books and microfilm is very extensive.

The library is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parking is available near the Broad Street Entrance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• When WCGS published its first book in 1993, the postage and handling cost was set at $3.00. During the intervening fourteen years and many postal increases, we have maintained that rate. However, it has been determined that we too will have to increase our rate. Effective June 1, 2007, the rate for postage and handling will be $4.50 per item except for maps. The rate for maps will be $4.50 for 1-4 maps.

• First Baptist Church in Wilson celebrated its 147th year on May 6th. The church was established on May 6, 1860. The church is planning a big 150th year celebration in 2010.

• P. L. Woodard & Co. celebrated its establishment in 1907 with an open house Sat. May 5th. The store has been at the same location on Barnes Street in Wilson for the past century primarily serving the needs of area farmers. Paul Lee Woodard was from the Black Creek area of Wilson County.

• Wilson Hardware Store is also celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. John Bowie Gray III came to Wilson from Fredericksburg, Va., bought the Palmer and Green Hardware store with partners J. B. Barnes and S. W. Richardson and incorporated it Jan. 3, 1907. The Gray family still owns the store located in the same building at 117 E. Nash St.

• The 400th anniversary of the establishment of the first permanent English settlement in North America on May 14, 1607, is being celebrated in Jamestown, Virginia, this year. While "America's Anniversary Weekend" was celebrated May 11-13, there are events and exhibits throughout the year. For more information see "Calendar of Events" at www.jamestown2007.org

• The North Carolina Museum of History is worth a visit at any time. They maintain long term and changing exhibits of interest to any genealogist. Some of the special exhibits now displayed are "What We Wore in North Carolina," a chronological exhibit covering more than 250 years, "Powering Our Past: North Carolina's Workhorses," an exhibit of equipment that played a role in the state's agricultural history, and "A Call to Arms: North Carolina's Military History Gallery," a look at North Carolina's military heritage from the American Revolution to the war in Iraq. For more information see http://ncmuseumofhistory.org

• North Carolina Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Speakers Forum on June 30, 2007, at the Wake County Commons Building, 4011 Carya Drive, Raleigh. Topics include: organization, census, land, wills and estates, African American, and Civil War. Registrants can choose from two lectures during each of the five time slots. For more information: http://www.ncgenealogy.org or email info@ncgenealogy.org

• Johnston County Genealogical and Historical Society will hold a workshop August 4, 2007, in the conference room of the Johnston County Public Library. Todd Johnson will speak on "Setting the Record Straight: Documenting Oral History with Primary Sources." Jim Jones will speak on "Early Land Grant Research, Yates Mill Area, Wake County, N. C." and "Male Y-Chromosome DNA Testing: a New Tool for Genealogical Research." Cost $15 if a member, $20 if not a member. Mail address: PO Box 2373, Smithfield NC 27577

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**1877-78 Wilson County, Daniel, Eatman, Williford, Woodard**

**May 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $3.00. Shipping cost for maps is $3.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 6.75% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
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# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

**June 2007** **Volume 16 Number 6**


## President's Message

Summer is upon us. This is the time that we think of vacations to renew our spirits and recharge our bodies.

Take some of that time to expand your family research. Survey the documented data that you have found. Analyze what you already know, what you need to prove, and what you need to find. You must define your problem before you can attempt to solve it.

Plan where and how you can search for the documentation that you need. Plan visits to do research and establish your goals for each session. Stay focused on that goal, take good notes, and avoid going off on tangents.

Visit your nearest archives, college libraries that have historical collections, public and private libraries, court houses and cemeteries.

Use the information found in the libraries to lead you to the primary sources that might have the proof that you need. Your work is not complete until you have seen the original records.

Don't forget the vertical files at the libraries. There may be treasure filed away there.

While at the libraries, look for supplementary sources for background information about your families' lives. Journals such as the one described on page 68 of this issue of *Trees of Wilson* contain descriptions of everyday life and some family information. This kind of information may not be widely available, so you should not limit your research time to one library.

After you return home, outline what you found. Analyze the data you collected and evaluate the evidence.

*Sue Evans Powell*

## ANNUAL SOCIAL, JUNE 26TH

### Spring Arbor Sunroom
### 2045 Ward Blvd, 6:30 pm

Please join us for our annual social on June 26th in the sunroom at Spring Arbor. The entrance is on the left end of the building. We will gather at 6:30 pm for an enjoyable evening of food and companionship.

Please, plan to attend bringing with you a covered dish, a friend or spouse, and one or more door prizes, which can be fun or genealogical in nature.

It is always a fun evening! Don't miss it!

Programs for the coming months are:

September 25: Ray King, subject to be announced

October 30: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

November 27: Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers, Show and Tell, Social

## FOUNDING FAMILIES

The work on the book, *Wilson County's Founding Families,* has proceeded very slowly during the continuing illness since March 2006 of co-editor Henry Powell. He is back at home now, and, hopefully, that will enable the remaining work to be done at a faster pace. We beg your patience while we take the time to do the job right.

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees.*

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
January the 9, 1864

Dear Brother,

I take pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time, all except the diarrhoea. I hope these few lines may find you enjoying God's blessing. You wrote to me that Wiley J. Batts was coming to see me. I have not seen him yet. I should [have] been glad if he had come, for I need my shirts and pants very bad indeed. If you can get anyone to fetch my things to me, I need them very bad indeed.

You wrote to me that you had hired a substitute for me. It does not do any good, for it is all done away. If you can hire anyone to come to this Company and join it, I can get a furlough for thirty days. Bill, if you can get someone to come and join this Company, there will a chance for me to come home and tend to my business. Please write soon and let me know; I want something good to eat.

I remain yours as ever,
GEORGE WOODARD

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
January the 23, 1864

Dear Brother,

I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time, only the diarrhoea. I hope these few lines

*(continued on page 62)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

This chronicle is published by the Wilson County Genealogical Society, organized February 26, 1991. Address: P.O. Box 802, Wilson, NC 27894-0802. Telephone 252-243-1660. Internet address:

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(**Woodard Letters**, continued from page 49)*


may fine you the same, and all the rest. Write as soon as you get this and let me know how you all are. It is very hard times here. Dear brother, I think I shall get a detail or discharge, so Lieutenant says I shall, for I ain't fitten for service. [I] have sent the papers around to be proved. I think I shall come home soon or go to a Richmond hospital. Dear Sister, I hope I shall come home to see you all again.

I must come to a close, saying I remain yours as ever,

GEORGE W. WOODARD

## MARY HAYS OBITUARY
### *Zion's Landmark,* October 1, 1894
### Contributed by J. Robert Boykin

MRS. MARY HAYS.

On the 10th of May, 1893, the Angel of Death stole quietly into the home of our brother N. T. Hays, in Wilson Co N. C., and bore the spirit of his beloved wife to her long home. Sister Hays was the daughter of William and Exiline Lucas, and was born August 20th, 1833, making her stay on earth 59 years, 8 months and 20 days. In June 1853 she was married to N. T. Hays, with whom she lived happily until the Lord saw fit to take her to her final rest. Sister Hays united with the Primitive Baptist church at Black Creek, Wilson Co., N. C., and was baptized by Elder W. W. Barnes. She was the mother of 12 children, 8 of whom (all grown) together with her aged husband and 29 grand-children besides many other relatives and friends are left to mourn their loss. She lived to see three of her children unite with the church she loved, and worship the God she so often spoke of in sweet and comforting words. On the 10th of May, 1893, she retired, feeling as well as she had done in a long time, and when her husband waked the next a. m., he found her lying on her side with one hand under her head, peacefully sleeping with a smile of joy on her countenance. "Asleep in Jesus." Sister Hays was always at church meeting whenever able to be carried, ready to speak of the goodness of the God whom she loved to serve and tell of his tender mercies. She loved to have the brethren visit her, and never seemed happier than when with them. A kind loving wife, a gentle mother, and a true friend is gone. In her death we have sustained a great loss. Folded are the busy hands, silent are the lips that made joy in the household. But God knoweth best. He has taken but his own to dwell with him in a fairer, brighter home. We hope the lonely husband and children may be enabled to look to God for comfort. He can heal our sorrows, and tell of a joyful reunion in Heaven.

[Editor's note: In the 1860 Wilson County Census, Thomas Hays, age 28, farm laborer; Mary, age 25; Amos, age 6; John W., age 3; Mahala, age 2; and Enos, age 1, lived in Black Creek District.

In 1870, the Wilson County Census recorded the family in Cross Roads Township. The members of the household were Thomas Hayes, age 39, farmer; Mary, age 36; Amos, age 16, working on farm; John, age 13, working on farm; Netta, age 8; Elizabeth, age 3; Ervin, age 2; Junius, age 1; and Harriet Davis, age 18, farm laborer.

The 1880 Wilson County Census recorded Nathan T. Hayes, age 49, farmer, living in Black Creek Township with his wife Mary, age 46, and children Nettie, age 18; Ervin, age 13, working on farm; Elizabeth, age 11; Junius, age 9; Willie, age 7; Gideon, age 5; and James H., age 3.

Mary Hayes, born August 20, 1833, died May 10, 1893, wife of N. T. Hayes; and N. T. Hayes, born December 25, 1823, died September 23, 1916, husband of Mary; are buried in the family cemetery beside Perry Road in Black Creek Township.]

## SALE OF FELTON'S MILL

### N. C. State Archives, N. C. Supreme Court Case #9803, James T. Barnes & others vs. James Barnes, Vol. 65, N. C. 262, January 1871

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

Whereas, there is at this time in the County of Wilson on white oak swamp a mill Known as Feltons Mill, the property of W$^{m}$ Felton, and whereas James S. Barnes, Jno. Felton, David Webb Hardy Burriss and Hardy Skinner are the owners & possessors of lands on said White Oak swamp above the site of said mill, and Jas Barnes, Benj Bynum, Wm Barnes Jr., Calvin Woodard & Turner Bynum are the owners & possessors of lands on said swamp below said mill site and whereas the Keeping up of said mill by the pond and otherwise injures the lands of the aforesaid parties by drowning and otherwise and whereas for the purpose of removing said mill and the inconvenience and damage incident thereto and for the preventing of the erection of a mill on said site for the future and as a consideration for said mill and all the privilege & rights appurtenant thereto the said James S. Barnes has paid four hundred dollars, the said James Barnes Two Hundred Dolls. the said Jno. Felton One Hundred & Twenty five Dollars, The said David Webb Seventy Dolls, The said Hardy Burriss Twenty dollars, the said Benj Bynum Fifty Dollars, the said Hardy Skinner Twenty five Dollars, the said Wm Barnes Jr. Twenty five Dolls., the said Calvin Woodard Twenty five Dolls. and the said Turner Bynum Fifty Dollars, and _____ Ten Dollars, the receipt by the said W$^{m}$ Felton is hereby fully acknowledged. Now therefore this deed made the 20$^{th}$ day of September AD1859 between & by the aforesaid parties Witnesseth. That the said W$^{m}$ Felton for and in consideration of the aforesaid Thousand dollars to him in hand paid by the aforesaid parties does give grant bargain sell & convey & by these presents does give grant bargain sell & convey unto the said James S. Barnes, James Barnes, Jno Felton, David Webb, Hardy Burriss, Benj Bynum, Hardy Skinner, W$^{m}$ Barnes Jr., Calvin Woodard & Turner Bynum his said mill on White oak swamp together with the site and all the rights & privileges incident or appurtenant thereto. To have & to hold to them & their heirs in due proportions in fee simple. And the said parties to effectuate the object above set forth, do hereby declare the said property to be held in trust for the benefit of the lands of which they are now individually & severally seized and possessed and to prevent any mill dam or other obstruction to be built placed or raised across said swamp to the damage & injury of their lands and to carry out & secure said trust each to the others binds himself his heirs executors and administrators to stand to and abide by the provisions of this deed in their true intent and meaning. And the said W$^{M}$ Felton for him self his heirs executors and administrators does covenant and agree to and with the other parties their heirs and assigns to forever warrant and defend the title hereby made against the lawful claim or claims of all persons whatever.
In testimony whereof we hereunto set our hands & seals this Sept 20 1859.

Witnss
T H Mallison

his
William x Felton
mark
James S. Barnes
Jas Barnes
Benj Bynum
Jno Felton
Hardy Burriss
his
Hardy x Skinner
mark
David Webb
Turner Bynum
William Barnes, Jr.
Calvin Woodard

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

- *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary,* by Martha W. McCartney
- *Craven County, North Carolina Cemeteries,* compiled by Eula Pearl Beauchamp, JoAnn Ernul Murphy, Jerline S. Wetherington
- *Burke County, North Carolina, 1900 Federal Census,* compiled by the Burke County Genealogical Society
- *Comprehensive Full Name Index for Cemeteries of Burke County, Vols. I-IV,* tabulated by Derick Hartshorn
- *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, Volumes I-IV, Revised 2004*

## AMAZING GRACE

***The News and Observer***

**A. C. Snow**

"Amazing Grace," ("that saved a wretch like me") written by John Newton about 1772, is America's most popular hymn. Over the years, "Amazing Grace" has been the repentant hymn at almost all Southern church revivals.

The "wretch" Newton, an English slave ship commander, sailed from England, anchored off the African coast where he exchanged trinkets, liquor, weapons, etc. with tribal chiefs who delivered stockades full of men and women seized during raids on other tribes. Newton then proceeded to America's Southern ports and sold his cargo at auction.

## THE HIDDEN CLUES IN GUARDIANSHIP BONDS

### By Richard A. Pence

[Copyright 2002, Richard A. Pence. Used by permission of the author. This article first appeared in MISSING LINKS: A Magazine for Genealogists, Volume 7, No. 22, 2 July 2002.]

The researcher was becoming frustrated by her inability to discover the maiden name of her ancestor Mary, the wife of Anthony KELLER.

"All I have been able to find out," she lamented on a surname mailing list, "is that Anthony's second wife made life so miserable for Mary's two boys that they were forced to go back to Ohio to live with their Uncle Bill."

When someone asked how she was able to learn that, here is the story she told:

Anthony's wife Mary died, leaving two small boys, Philip, age five, and George, age three. About a year later, in 1847, Anthony remarried to a woman named Sally and the following spring the family moved from Ohio to Indiana. Our researcher discovered that in February of 1850, Anthony's brother William, who remained in Ohio, had been made the guardian of Philip and George, "children of Anthony KELLER" (the word "orphans" had been crossed out and "children" inserted in the record). "That second wife actually drove them out of the house!," our researcher declared.

When another family researcher pointed out that Philip and George were enumerated with their father and stepmother in Indiana in both 1850 and 1860, our researcher wrote this off by saying the boys were "probably just visiting" in the summer.

We all know guardianship bonds are important genealogical sources. Often, in the case of the early death of a parent, they provide the only proof of the link from one generation to the next. As important, an understanding of the reason for such records can help solve other knotty genealogical mysteries.

One of the perplexing things for many researchers is that a family might exist without one of the parents for a considerable period -- even several years -- and then, suddenly, the names of the children appear in the guardianship bond book and they now have a court-appointed legal guardian.

Why? Why the long delay? Why suddenly is there a need for a guardian for the orphans of a man or a woman who has been dead for a half dozen years? Was the surviving spouse just too busy to get around to doing a required legal chore? Or were the children actually being maltreated by the surviving parent? What is going on?

An important thing to understand is that when a person was appointed the guardian of a minor child (generally any child under age 21), the reason is not to place the guardian in charge of rearing the child. "Bound boys and girls" are the ones who are placed in the care of others. Guardians have a different responsibility, that of protecting the material assets of their wards.

Therein lies the answer to the question, "Why now?" What a guardianship bond silently tells us is that some recent event has triggered the need for a guardian. Some new event may mean the children are about to acquire some property.

For example, one reason for the sudden need to have a guardian for the children might be that a widow has decided to remarry. Now it has become necessary to protect the children's property rights in their father's estate from the "clutches" of their new stepfather. So one of the first things you should do is check the marriage bonds for that time frame. If the widow did remarry, knowing who she married might enable you to track the family's later moves, for example.

It gets better.

Let us consider the case of "The Unwanted Stepchildren" who were "adopted by their Uncle Bill." Our researcher saw the record and thought of it in terms of an adoption proceeding, thus missing the real message in the record.

The reason for a guardian surely had to be that some outside event had made it necessary. It is this triggering event that might have told our researcher how to solve the mystery of the maiden name of Anthony's wife Mary.

For, you see, Philip and George were about to come into some money. Therefore, they needed a guardian to look after their interests. The family was way off in Indiana, so it was decided that Anthony's brother William back in Ohio was the one to look after things -- because he was where "the action" was.

"The action" was this: Mary's father had died intestate (without a will). Since Mary's mother was already deceased, this meant that Mary and her siblings were each entitled to an equal share of their father's estate. Because Mary also was deceased, her two sons were, by law, each entitled to half of her share.

So, while the guardianship record didn't actually say that Uncle William was going to be keeping track of how Mary's father's estate was being administered, it should have alerted our researcher to the fact that something recently happened to trigger this action. And what triggered the activity probably was not the "wicked stepmother" at all.

Once you have this clue, then it is time to start looking at the other county records for the "trigger" -- in particular, the contemporary estate records. You can now focus your search, making it relatively easy to discover that among the heirs of Alexander WILEY, who died in late 1849, is "Mary KELLER, deceased, leaving two sons in Indiana."

There are still other clues in guardianship records and these, too, must be properly interpreted.

Sometimes, for example, you will encounter a record that says, "George Jones, age 14, orphan of Samuel Jones, chose Adam Jones as his guardian."

In most jurisdictions, once a child reached age 14, he or she had the legal right to choose his or her own guardian. Thus, in the absence of a specified age, a person who has chosen his or her own guardian can be presumed to be at least 14 years old. However, the words "age 14" in such a record may not mean that the child was age 14 at the time. What they often mean is that he or she is *at least* age 14 and thus is entitled to choose his or her own guardian.

As you become more experienced, your eye will discover even more hidden messages in guardianship records. What,

*(continued on page 65)*

## ELIJAH PRICE OBITUARY
### W&B, San Augustine, November 23, 1852

Obituary Notice:

Died: On the 17th inst., at the residence of Hon. B. R. Wallace, in this county, Col. ELIJAH PRICE aged 61 years, 2 months, and 8 days.

Col. Price was born in Martin county, North Carolina, on Sept. 9th, 1791. His parents emigrated from Maryland, and were among the early settlers of North Carolina. In 1821 Col. Price married Miss Temperance Thomas, of Stantonsburg, Edgecomb county, N. C. He remained in North Carolina until 1830, and emigrated to Lawrence county, Alabama. He also lived in Sumter, which county he had the honor of representing in the State Legislature. He was the first representative elected, after the organization of the county. Although not an orator, and seldom urging anything on the floor of the House, his influence with the members was nevertheless very great, and many important measures were advocated by him, and passed with his assistance. In 1841, he emigrated to Texas, and settled in Polk (then a part of Liberty) county— subsequently removed to San Augustine county, and finally settled near the town of San Augustine, for the convenience of educating his children.

Col. Price was an old and worthy member of the Masonic Fraternity. He was made a Mason in Tarborough, Edgecomb county, N. C., sometime between the years of 1812 and 1820. He had advanced to the degree of Royal Arch, and was, at the time of his death, a member of Rising Star Chapter, No. 9 R. A. M., located in San Augustine. He was also made an Odd Fellow in 1850 and remained a member of Aies Lodge, No. 16, I.O.O.F., at San Augustine until his death. He was faithful in the discharge of his duties to both institutions, and esteemed them next to the Christian Church. He was interred with Masonic honors, and the rites of the Episcopal Church-Rev. E. H. Downing, of Christ Church, officiating. His remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of citizens and mourning friends. In religion, Col, Price inclined to the doctrines of the Episcopal Church. He was a member of Christ Church, San Augustine, into which he was admitted by baptism on the 13th of October, 1848.

Rev. Henry Sanson (then pastor of the church) administered the sacred rite. Col. Price was a Senior Warden of the Church at the time of his death. He left a wife and ten children, and a large circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn his loss. To the bereaved members of his family, we would say, look forward to the great day of accounts when your lost husband and father shall be restored to you-not clad in the corruption of "flesh and blood" but with a glorius body, like unto that of our Savior. Then a reunion will take place which shall last throughout eternity-a reunion such as Heaven alone can witness, and immortals only can enjoy.

[Editor's note: The marriage of Elijah Price of Stantonsburg to Temperance Thomas was performed on December 11, in Edgecombe County, and was reported in the *Raleigh Register and North Carolina Gazette* on January 18, 1822. The family bible records that Elijah Price married Temperance Thomas, daughter of Ichabod Thomas, on December 11, 1821. (*Marriages of Early Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1733-1868,* compiled by Ruth Smith Williams and Margarette Glenn Griffin)]

## BLACK CREEK NOTES
### *The Wilson Advance,* May 17, 1894
**Contributed by Deborah Coggins Gammon**

Mr. W. R. Ferrell, of Nashville, and Mr. Nero Edwards, of Spring Hope, lifted the light of their countenances upon the B. C. I. this week. They will return and enter school here next session and will also bring several Nash county boys with them.

Elder A. J. Moore preached two excellent sermons at the Primitive Baptist church last Saturday and Sunday.

That rare gem of girlhood, the exquisitely bewitching Miss Sallie Rowe, whose transporting figure, winning graces and seductive manners make her an object of fondest admiration, was quite indisposed during last week.

Mrs. W. A. Ferrell left Tuesday to be present at the funeral of her grandmother, who died at her home near Massey, N. C., Monday. Mrs. Ferrell will spend several days at her father's, in Raleigh, before she returns home.

Mr. E. F. Boyette spent last Saturday and Sunday in Wayne county.

Mrs. B. F. Taylor, of Nashville, is visiting her father's family in this village. O. C. F.

## WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COPY OF FOUNDING FAMILIES TO COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

## CAN YOU GIVE A LITTLE TIME TO HELP MAKE THAT POSSIBLE?

## CAN YOU SPOT AN ERROR?

**WE NEED PROOFREADERS TO REVIEW SMALL PORTIONS OF *WILSON COUNTYS' FOUNDING FAMILIES* FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS AND MINOR OMISSIONS.**

You would be provided with a small section of the text and a list of guidelines to use. You would look for errors such as no space between two words, paragraph indentions, omission of the year of a census record or township. You would not be asked to verify the facts or spelling of names.

Please let us know by phone (252) 243-1660, e-mail at info@wcgs.org or by mail at PO Box 802, Wilson NC 27984-0802 if you can help.

*(Guardianship Bonds, continued from page 64)*

for instance, could be the reason one of the children in the family is not mentioned in any of the guardianship records? When the mother is made the guardian is it relevant when the record says "the orphans of her deceased husband" and DOES NOT say something like "her minor children"? Is there a story behind why the bond says "orphan and sole heir" rather than just "orphan"? (There sure can be!)

The lesson is that even a supposedly brief and direct record such as a guardianship bond can contain within it the answer to a completely different puzzle.

## THOMAS HORN OF CONTENTNEA CREEK

### Hugh B. Johnston Files

Thomas Horn, son of Henry and Anne (Purcell) Horn, was born on March 24, 1753/4, in lower Edgecombe County, and died about 1809 in Wayne (now Wilson) County. On September 21, 1771, he was living on Tar River and had recently married Celia Vick, perhaps the daughter of Richard and Ann Vick, at Rich Square Monthly Meeting in Northampton County. On August 19, 1775, he was condemned by the Quakers for attending a marriage out of unity. On April 19, 1777, he received a certificate of removal to Contentnea Monthly Meeting in Wayne County.

On the Wayne County Tax List of 1786, Thomas Horn had two white polls and 600 acres of land. In the Wayne County Census of 1790 Thomas Horn had himself three males under sixteen, seven females, and one other free person.

On January 12, 1790, Benjamin Cobb of Nash County sold Thomas Horn of Wayne County for £27 current N. C. money a tract of 200 acres in Wayne County near the head of Cabin Branch adjoining Henry Horn (formerly Coleman line), Thomas Horn, and Contentnea Creek, witnessed by James (I) Mustgrave and Peter Peacock Peacock. (D. B. 4, p.417) On October 8, 1790, Drewry (x) Boykin and Hardy (B) Boykin sold Thomas Horn of Wayne County for £9 in specie money 25 acres south of Contentnea Creek adjoining "Boykin's Old Ford where Johnston and Wayne Counties Joins," adjoining Shadrach Simms and said Horn, witnessed by Abel Horn and Elijah Coleman. (D. B. 5, p. 28)

On August 28, 1795, Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight granted to Thomas Horn 300 acres south of Great Contentnea Creek in Wayne County adjoining himself, Jeremiah Horn, and Benjamin Cobb. (Patent Book 87, p. 483, D. B. 6, p. 93) On October 8, 1796, Thomas Horn of Wayne County recorded a deed to Jeremiah Horn of Wayne County by agreement part of a patent in the vicinity of a road, witnessed by Jesse Parker and John Doudna. (D. B. 5E, p.37_?)

On January 26, 1797, Thomas Horne of Wayne County and Jethro Harrison were executors named in the will of William (x) Row of Nash County, witnessed by Thomas Horn and Charles (x) Howell. (W. B. 1, p. 123) On February 9, 1797, Henry Horn of Wayne County deeded to his son Thomas Horn of Wayne County for love some land north of Contentnea Creek in Nash County adjoining the "upper end of William Row Oldfield about the old mill on the Creek bank," Great Branch, and Cornelius Sanders, witnessed by William (x) Row and James Broadstreet. (D. B. 6, p.233) On March 8, 1797, Henry Horn of Wayne County deeded to Thomas Horn of Wayne County for £45 in Virginia currency paid to William Horn, his interest in the lands of William Rowe, deceased, including the plantation where William Horn then lived in Nash County, witnessed by William Horn, Jeremiah Horn, and Patience Horn. (D. B. 6, p. 268)

On May 11, 1798, John Hedgepeth of Edgecombe County deeded to Thomas Horn of Wayne County for £8/15/0 current money 14 acres on Spring Branch, adjoining the late William Rowe, the pond between Shepherd's Branch and Spring Branch, Jesse Hedgepath, and Cornelius Sanders, witnessed by Jethro Harrison and Theophilus Grice. (D. B 6, p. 452) On September 19, 1798, Jehu Weaver of Wayne County sold Thomas Horn of the same for £20 one-seventh of the late William Rowe's plantation patented on February 23, 1761, north of Contentnea Creek "Joining s$^{d}$. Rows Landing," said Weaver being the "proper heir" of his mother Christian Weaver, daughter of William Row and one of his heirs at her mother's death. (D. B. 6, p. 451)

On October 7, 1802, Thomas Horn of Wayne County sold David Bundy of Nash County for $318.00 a tract of 180 acres north of Contentnea Creek at the mouth of Great Branch formerly called Shepherd's Branch, adjoining Rowe's old patent, Cornelius Sanders, John Hedgepeth, Spring Branch, and the Road, witnessed by Thomas Horn and William Horn. (Deed Book 7, p. 251) On October 7, 1802, Thomas Horn of Wayne County sold Shadrach Simms of the same for $291.50 a tract of 81 acres north of Contentnea Creek in Nash County adjoining Rowe's Old Landing, Cobb, Horn, Rowe's old patent line, Shepherd's Branch, and Cornelius Sanders, witnessed by Thomas Airs, David Bundy (Quaker), and Nathan Moore, Sr. (D. B. 8, p. 210)

On May 5, 1804, Thomas Horn and Jeremiah Horn of Wayne County established a straight boundary line, beginning at Contentnea Creek thirty or forty yards above "Horn's old Mill seat," and giving each other any land added by such line, witnessed by Willis Peelle and James Edgerton. (D. B. 8, p. 42) On May 8, 1806, James (x) Deans sold Thomas Horn, Sr., of Wayne County for $128.00 a tract of 150 acres in Nash County on Millstone Swamp, adjoining the mouth of Spring Branch, Samuel Williams, William Smelly, Marsh Swamp, and Noel Eatman, witnessed by Jesse Parker and Sampson Jones. (Deed Book 3, page 251) On August 28, 1807, Thomas Horn of Wayne County gave his son Abel Horn for love 244 acres south of Contentnea Creek about one-fourth of a mile below where Johnston County Line joins the creek and running to the latter point, witnessed by John Holliman and Reddick Barnes. (D. B. 9, p. 85)

On May 8, 1810, Jacob Horn, Isaac Parker, and Jesse Parker, executors of Thomas Horn, deceased, of Wayne County, sold Noel Eatman of Nash County for £30/8/0 a tract of 150 acres N. of Millstone Branch, adjoining Spring Branch, Samuel Williams, William Smelly, the Rooty Prong of Marsh Swamp, Gray's Prong of Marsh Swamp, and James Deans, witnessed by Bartley Deans, John Williams, and Lee Horn. (Deed Book 9, page 226)

Thomas Horn signed his will in Wayne County on November 16, 1807: (1) wife Selah Horn, (2) brother Jacob Horn, (3) son Wilson Horn, (4) son and executor Abel Horn, land north of Contentnea Creek, (5) daughter Anne Parker, (6) daughter Damaris Bundy, (7) daughter Sarah Yelverton, (8) son Thomas Horn, Jr., (9) daughter Orpha Horn, (10) daughter Lydia Horn, (11) daughter Mary Barnes, and (12) witnesses Jeremiah Horn and Pharaby (x) Horn. (Record Book 1 A, page 49)

The children of Thomas Horn and wife Celia Vick:

1. Anne Horn was born on December 25, 1771, and married in 1794 at Contentnea Monthly Meeting Jesse Parker.
2. Abel Horn was born on December 27, 1773, and married

*(Continued on Page 67)*

*(**Thomas Horn,** continued from page 54)*
Elizabeth Outland at Turner's Swamp Quaker Meeting House in Wayne County, on November 19, 1795. Elizabeth was the daughter of Cornelius Outland and wife Anna Peelle.

The family plantation was on Mill Branch, and Abel also owned land on both sides of Contentnea Creek.

Abel Horn signed his will in Wayne County on May 13, 1808, naming his wife Elizabeth, son Ricks, daughters Charity, Rebecca, and Betsy, and an unborn child. His uncle Jeremiah Horn and brother-in-law Exum Outland were named as executors, and Orpha Horn witnessed the will.

Charity was born October 1, 1799; Rebecca on April 11, 1802; Betsy on April 2, 1804; Ricks on March 20, 1806, and probably died young; and Mahala was born January 3, 1809.

3. Damaris Horn was born on April 29, 1776. On February 16, 1797, she married David Bundy, son of Dempsey Bundy, at Holly Spring Meeting House. On August 9, 1834, David and Damaris Bundy received a certificate of removal to Arba Monthly Meeting in Indiana.
4. Nathan Horn was born on July 8, 1778, and died on February 9, 1794.
5. Joel Horn was bon on September 9, 1781.
6. Mary Horn was born on November 6, 1783. On July 11, 1807, she was dismissed from the Quaker Church for marrying John Barnes.
7. Sarah Horn was born on May 26, 1786. About March 8, 1805, she was dismissed from the Quaker Church for marrying a fellow named Yelverton.
8. Orpha Horn was born on December 18, 1788. On October 8, 1808, she was dismissed from the Quaker Church for marrying too near a relation.
9. Lydia Horn was born on July 7, 1793.
10. Thomas Horn, Jr., was born on April 27, 1793. On February 10, 1816, he was dismissed from Contentnea Monthly Meeting of the Quaker Church for marrying out of unity to Phebe Horn, daughter of Jacob Horn, Sr., of Nash County.

Thomas Horn made his will in Wayne County on August 18, 1853, probated in November Court 1853. He made bequests to his wife Phoebe, sons Hardy, John Willie, Josiah W., Thomas, and William; daughters Martha Davis, Mary Bone (wife of Calvin Bone of Nash County), Elizabeth Pope, and Nancy M. Horn. Amos Horn was one of the witnesses.

11. Wilson Horn was born in January, 1798, died April 1866, in Wayne County, Indiana. He was buried in Chester Quaker Cemetery. In December 1819, he married Clarkie Jane Henby in Wayne County, North Carolina. In January 1820, he was dismissed from Contentnea Monthly Meeting.

In January 1823, they and two children were received at Center Monthly Meeting in Wayne County, Indiana, where the 1830 Census found them living in Green Township.

[Editor's Note: The Horn family file, compiled by Hugh B. Johnston, contains 382 pages. The narratives of the individual family units are filed alphabetically. The trustees of Mr. Johnston's estate have made his file available to WCGS and to WCGS members at $.20 per page.]

## CORRECTION

In the May issue of *Trees of Wilson,* on page 53, the correct legal term should be "Bill of Cost" not "Rill of Cost."

## EARLY PERSONAL NEWS

### *Historical Writings,* Hugh Buckner Johnston

**Unpublished manuscript, compiled 1986**

Mrs. Eliza H. Atkinson, wife of Robert W. Atkinson of Edgecombe County, died at her father's home near Wilson on May 23, 1867. (*The Southerner,* May 30)

Dr. E. S. Barnes of Wilson married Olivia A. Vines, daughter of John A. Vines of Edgecombe County, on June 27, 1866. (*The Southerner,* June 30)

W. C. Batts married Miss Bettie Hearne in Wilson on December 5, 1867, with the Rev. Peter E. Hines officiating. (*The Southerner,* December 12)

"MARRIED. In Wilson, on Wednesday evening, 4th instant, at St. Timothy's Church, by Rev. A. A. Benton, Dr. E. E. Blake to Miss Mary G., daughter of H. F. Hancock." (*The Southerner,* September 12)

Henry D. Patton, native of Dumferline, Scotland, "but for many years a resident of Wilson," died there on September 4, 1867, aged about thirty-five. (*The Southerner,* Sept. 12)

On June 25, 1867, Thaddeus Pender married Nannie Williams, daughter of John G. Williams, Esq., at her father's residence in Wilson County, by William D. Farmer, Esq. (*The Southerner,* July 11)

J. E. Porter of Tarboro married Sarah E. Anderson of Wilson County near Stantonsburg on May 21, 1867, by the Rev. Joel W. Tucker. (*The Southerner,* May 23)

"DIED. Near Stantonsburg, on Sunday the 1st instant, Louisa, infant daughter of Henry M., and Mrs. Louisa Thompson, aged 1 year, 1 month and 11 days." (*The Southerner,* September 12)

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Mrs. Elizabeth Draughan, wife of Wells Draughan, Esq., died on February 20, 1869, aged 79 years. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* March 4) The Edgecombe County Census of 1850 indicates that he was born in 1786, she in 1791, and that their considerable property was worth $15,000.

Wiley J. Dunn married Lucy P. Ferguson at Rocky Mount Methodist Church on June 8, 1869. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* August 4)

W. J. Edwards married Sue R. Barnes on February 15, 1870, at the Dempsey Barnes home near Sparta in Edgecombe County, with Elder T. R. Owens officiating. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* February 17)

Thomas C. Hussey died on November 21, 1868, having been born in 1804. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* November 26) He had been a shoemaker at Tarboro and had married Emily Rountree (as a second wife) on July 4, 1849.

Perry Jenkins was born in 1794 and died on November 14, 1868. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* November 19) In the Census of 1850, S. P. Jenkins was a farmer worth $13,000. Samuel Perry Jenkins had married Rebecca Pitt (Born in 1801), a daughter of James Pitt.

Mrs. Nicey Johnson died in Greenville on Sunday, April 24, 1870. (*The Tarboro Southerner,* May 19)

Mrs. Sally Killebrew died on November 15, 1868, having been morn in 1796. (*The Tarboro Southerner)* Sally Gay married Joshua Killebrew on October 31, 1835; she was apparently the Sally May who had married Jonathan Gay on February 1, 1831.

## MISSIONARY JOURNAL OF WALTER MARION EVERTON, 1896-1898

### Contributed by Naomi Everton Christensen

[Editor's note: Mrs. Christensen, daughter of Walter Marion Everton, has given WCGS a copy of the portion of his journal kept while he served as a missionary in Wilson County. Her father later founded *Everton's Genealogical Helper, The magazine dedicated to helping genealogists since 1947.*

The journal is 107 pages (pages 5 through 86 cover his time in Wilson County). We include here the beginning pages and will include additional sections from time to time.

When we can do so, we will index the complete journal and make a copy for the Wilson County Public Library.]

July 13, 1896 (Wilson) N. C. and Eureka, Wayne Co., N. C. Monday. We went to a bakery in Wilson, bought a loaf of bread, some cheese and a pie, costing in all 15 cents. It was all we could do to finish it up. We took the county road for Goldsboro. I guess Wilson has about 2200 inhabitants, most of whom are commercial or manufacturing men. We walked on and on in the hot scorching sun; asked one man how far it was to Goldsboro. He said "about 34 miles I reckon." Walked on half a mile and asked another man. He said "Wal, I reckon its about 14 or 15 miles." We went on three or four miles, stopped to rest at a place. They said it was thirty miles to Goldsboro and from Goldsboro to Mt. Olive, where conference will be held about 15 miles. We continued on and about five o'clock got entertainment with a Mr. Overman. We sat down on the piazza and had a good talk. This afternoon it was hot-hotter than I have ever experienced – I believe. When we were on the piazza it was so cold that I was shivering. After a good supper and some more conversation, we retired and slept well.

[Editor's note: The days before their return to Wilson have been omitted.]

July 24 Wilson

There was nothing going on on this glorious twenty-fourth, except four Mormons going on the railroad. We stopped about three o'clock and got a drink. Mr. Phelps, the proprietor received us with open arms. Wanted us to stop over night. Elders Freeman and Telford were tired, so they accepted the invitation. Elder Friday and I went on about twelve miles farther to Wilson. Mr. Lewis Herold, one of Elder Friday's friends, and the prop. of a boarding house was glad to see us, as was Mrs. Herold. We were provided with a snack and went to our room to rest up. We retired early and rested well.

July 25 '96 Wilson

Saturday. Got up quite early, dressed, shaved and breakfasted. Sat down after breakfast to write home. At mail time we went to the P. 0. I got a letter from home. Glad to hear from them. Got a stamp in the letter with which to send the one back. I also wrote to E. P. Oldham. When I mailed the letters I got a statement of my account at the office at Chattanooga, which gives me a balance of $4.50 after paying for 1 doz. Voice of Warnings' and a new testament which were sent with the bill. We walked west from Wilson for 7 miles to Mr. Wm. Henry Harrison where we remained over night.

July 26 '96 Wilson

Sunday. After breakfast Elder Friday and I walked about a mile and a half to Mr. O'Neals where we heard that some more Mormon Elders were stationed. We found Elders Green, Bryan, Cole and Blake there. They had made an appointment to preach in the school house at 3 o'clock. We, that is Elder Friday and I, walked three miles from there to Freewill baptist meeting. Took dinner with Mr. W. H. Harrison after which we went to the Mormon meeting. Elders Bryan and Greene spoke to the people. In the evening another meeting was held when Elders Telford and Freeman addressed the people. We had supper and slept at Mr. Irvine Eatman's. On my road back after meeting I fell off a foot log and struck my umbrella on the ground so hard that I broke the handle in three or four places, and tore the cloth besides. I'll have to have another one.

July 27 ' 96 - Wilson

Monday. Spent all the forenoon with Mr. Irvine Eatman. Elder Friday put a new stalk in my umbrella and sewed up the rip so I won't get another right away. After dinner we went about a mile to Uncle Thomas Eatman's. He was glad to see us, as was his wife. He knows more Mormon doctrine than 11/12 of our elders. He has read nearly all our church works and he remembers it all. I expect he will be baptized sometime. I have forgotten to mention the watermelons we have eaten in the last few days. Well, we have had all we could possibly eat since we arrived on Friday.

July 28 '96 - Wilson

Tuesday. We stayed with Mr. Eatman's all day. I studied some and slept some, and ate more watermelons, muskmelons, grapes and peaches. The weather was very hot so we did not stir out much. Most of the day it stood at about 98 deg. F, and at night it did not go down much so most of the folks did not sleep much. But I slept, although I was sweating all the time.

July 29 '96 Wilson

Wednesday. Got up quite early and dressed for breakfast. The thermometer stood at 83 deg. before the sun came up. About 10 o'clock we left Mr. Eatmans and walked about two miles to attend Freewill Baptist revival meeting. There were seventeen of us to listen to Rev. Deaber. He didn't say much although he tried quite hard, stayed with it quite a while. After meeting we walked 2 miles to Mr. John Lamb's, where we got some dinner and stayed during the afternoon. It was so hot we nearly died. After supper we had some watermelon, fresh from the vine, and so hot we could hardly hold to it. I laid without cover and sweat all night.

July 30 1896 - Wilson

Thursday. We left Mr. Lamb immediately after breakfast and started for Wilson City. I was very warm walking, but we took it slow and arrived at Mr. Herold's in good time. I thought to get some mail, but - vain wish - there was nothing of any importance. We stopped with Mr. Herold for

*(Continued on page 69)*

*(Everton Journal, continued from page 68)*
dinner. Elder Friday got his clothes which a negro had dyed. I wrote a letter to Rudolph Larson of Smithfield. We started back to our field again about 4 o'clock. Walked slowly back about five miles to Mr. Pearson's where we stayed during the night.

July 31, 1896 - Wilson

Friday. We left Mr. Pearson along in the forenoon and walked down to Mr. W. H. Harrison's where we got into conversation and stayed for some time. We took dinner with Mr. Harrison after which we walked on to Mr. Gaston Glover's place and stopped talking with the people during the afternoon and stayed with them at night. It was not as warm today as it has been for some time. I am enjoying myself exceedingly well here. Nearly every man we meet in this section is a friend. We have so many places where we could stop our only trouble is to tell which to stop with and not offend the others. I think we have more places to stay than the baptist minister who has been preaching thirty years. And, 0 the watermelons! Every place we stop we must eat one or two so that I've been full as a tick for days.

August 1, 1896

Mr. Glover went to town this morning and we sent for our mail by him. While he was gone we went and visited two sick families who are very friendly. We stopped with one of them, Mr. Henry Clay Taylor, and took dinner. After dinner we went out and took a bath in the branch. There is quite a bit of sickness in this neighborhood. Typhoid fever is common. We visited one case today. A little after noon we walked down to Mr. Gaston Glover's again and as he had not yet come home from Wilson we waited for him, eating two or three melons in the meantime. When he came he brought a letter from Pres. Hubbard and one from Ma. The folks at home are all well. I guess they are very busy for they don't write much. Went from Mr. Glover's over into Nash Co. to a place just across the line where we held meeting by night. The benches were placed in Mr. Wiley Eatman's yard under some large oaks, and we stood on the porch and talked to them. We had quite a crowd out. Made an appointment for tomorrow at eleven o'clock. The people in this section are friendly as they were where we have been during the last week which is about five miles from here. There had been a primary to elect precinct officers held just before our meeting and quite a number of the men got drunk. While our meeting was going on a number of them stopped out in the road in front of the house to settle a quarrel they had had and perchance to finish a fight they had begun. It was all settled all right, I guess, without disturbing the meeting much.

August 2, 1896 - Wilson

Sunday. During the morning we studied considerably. At eleven o'clock our meeting began. We did not have very many present, but we had a good time anyway. After meeting we made another appointment for eight o'clock. We ate watermelons during the afternoon and talked with some men who gathered around. We had about the same number at night, and after meeting they got after us for another appointment. We set 1st Sunday in September. Mr. J. P. Narron invited us home with him and two or three others gave us an invitation to stop with them. We went home with Mr. Narron and had a good night's rest.

August 3, 1896 - Wilson

Monday. Arose quite early. After breakfast left Mr. Narron and started west towards Mr. Wilson's where we may hold meeting. When we had gone about a mile we came to Mr. Ruffin Eatman and Co. putting up tobacco. We stopped and talked a while and watched them work. I concluded there and then that I didn't want to raise Tobacco. It is more work than any crop I ever saw. I believe the only easy thing there is about it would be the first planting. A tablespoonful of seed will produce enough plants to plant several acres when they are set out. We stopped with Mr. Eatman for an hour or so when we left him and passed on. Just afternoon after we had travelled about three miles altogether we stopped to rest with a Mr. Peal. His wife and aunt were at meeting yesterday. We didn't know it, however, until one of them came out and asked us in to dinner. We ate a good dinner and after dinner they brought out some peaches. We ate all we could of them and they then brought some watermelon and then some muskmelon. I broke my record then and there. I ate more in one hour than I ever have eaten before. We left Mr. Peal about 4 p.m. Walked about a mile to Mr. Wilson's. Everybody was busy so we could not hold meeting, but we had a good long conversation with Mr. Wilson who has many Mormon ideas and appears to have been waiting for the gospel to come to him.

August 4, 1896 - Talbot

Tuesday. Got up early. Had a scanty breakfast before six o'clock. Mr. Wilson and his wife had to go to their work in the tobacco, and Elder Friday and I went into the house and made ourselves at home. I wrote a letter home - a long-long letter- Elder Priday got a needle and thread and mended his vest, after which he also wrote a letter home. We expected to send it off that evening as much as could be, yet neither of us had a stamp. When we had finished writing them behold Mr. Wilson came in and gave each of us a stamped envelope. We were two thankful boys, I tell you. Along towards evening we went over to the tobacco barn and there were some of the labourers there who wanted us to preach. We appointed the evening. Went over to the post office towards evening and the P. M. gave us a postal card to write and have our mail forwarded to Talbot, and again we were thankful. We held a meeting in the evening and had quite a little crowd out to hear us. We stayed with Mr. J. C. Wilson in whose house we preached.

August 5, 1896 - Wilson

Wednesday. We got up quite early and did some studying. Got Mrs. Wilson to wash our clothes for us and promised to come back and preach there next Saturday and Sunday. We started down east about eleven o'clock to try and hold meeting at night in which we were unsuccessful. We stopped one or two places but found the family sick or something else, so we did not ask them to let us hold meeting. Just about dark, after walking about five miles, we stopped at Mr. Thos. Simpson's where we stayed during the night. Mr. Simpson is a very strong friend and almost a convert.

## WILMINGTON AND WELDON RAIL ROAD EMPLOYEES—1863

### N. C. State Archives, Wilson County, N. C., Miscellaneous Records 1786-1961

### C. R. 105.928.8, List of Rail Road Employees 1863

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

Wilmington and Weldon R. Road
Office of Engineer and Supt.
Wilmington N. C. Septr 3d 1863

A list of Expert Track hands &c employed on the Wilmington and Weldon Rail Road

Jere Batts
R. N. Lane
Alex Wells
Amos Wheeler
Timothy Boney
J. D. Jones
Wright Carlton
Geo. W. Middleton
B. Whitehead
E. E. Peirce
Boney Wells

H. A. M$^{c}$Lendon
J. B. Batts
J. J. Taylor
A. D. Taylor
John J. Sharp
T. G. Dixon
W. S. Wells
W. G. Barnes
K. H. Lewis
Archibald Rose
William Worsley

Elijah Williams
Bennet Hooks
W$^{m}$. Crumpler
Jordan Winstead
Henry Bryan
Gray Bryan
C. C. Rountree
John Bass
W$^{m}$. Carter
James Hooks
Uriah Benton

Bridge Builders
J. A. Parker, Master Bridge Builder or Manager

W. H. R. Dukes
Guilford Powell
Thos. Sellars
B. R. Raiford
W. G. Barnes

Expert track hands temporarily employed as Bridge Watchmen

Kilbee Hollingworth North East Bridge
James Hollingworth Rockfish "
Daniel Futral Neuse River
David Futral " "
W$^{m}$. Morlow Contentnea
Joseph Barber "

D. B. Daniel Tar River
Caleb Ethridge Fishing Creek
Peter Elinor " "
H. J. Harriss Quankey Bridge
Lewis Steag " "

W. N. Dromgoole Conductor
J. M. Howell "
C. Johnson "
W. J. Y. ThurstonConductor
Charles E. Nelson Engineer
John Leirthicum "
J. H. Carpenter "
Gabriel Beasley "
W. D. L. Southall "
Charles R. Parker "

H. H. Terry Machinist
James Donnelly "
Joseph Stockdall "
N. M$^{c}$Cully "
H. M. Pope "
H. C. Clark "
Robt. Fowler "
W$^{m}$. Hartsfield "
Daniel March "
John M. Cole "
Allen Cutts Manager

I certify on honor that the above List exhibits a true statement of the hands actually employed as stated opposite or over their names respectively, that their services are necessary and that the length of the main track is 180 miles.

S. L. Termont
Chf Eng & Supt

## MINUTES MAY 2007 MEETING

Our President Sue Powell extended welcome to members and guests. The minutes were approved as written in Trees and a brief treasurer's report was given.

Sue gave an update on the Founding Families Book telling us that she is now on the W's and sees the end of this phase. Proofreading is the next and very necessary step. The board has recommended a plea for volunteers to proof small sections of the book looking for typos and omissions. The data does not need to be verified, and there will be guidelines to follow for the proof reading. There will be two copies printed for this purpose. So, members please offer to help!!!

Wanda Taylor has agreed to prepare the 2008 calendar, and though that time seems far in the future, we need to start gathering old pictures to be used in its printing.

The "City of Wilson 1876 Map" has arrived and is still being researched. The donor determined that what he purchased was a copy of a copy that was in two pieces taped together. It was digitized and sent to WCGS. It is beautiful but seems to be the same as the "Circa 1882" map. There seem to be a number of differences between it and the 1877-78 Business Directory, though the directory is not always completely accurate. Sue pointed out some of the significant differences.

Due to the postage increase, the board has determined that we must increase our rate for shipping books and maps which has been the same since 1993. The rate will now be $4.50 per item, except maps which will be $4.50 for 1-4 maps. This price was effective as of June 1, 2007. The books will continue to be available for purchase and pick up at the main branch of the Wilson County Public Library.

The June social will be on our regular meeting night which is the last Tuesday and will be in the sunroom at Spring Arbor. Entrance is on the left end of the building. Please, plan to attend bringing with you a covered dish, a friend or spouse and one or more door prizes, which can be fun or genealogical in nature. It is always a fun evening!

Speakers for the fall meetings were announced beginning with Ray King in September.

Phil Mooring gave us an account of the Wilson County Historical Association May meeting and the report made by archaeologist Tom Beaman in his update on the search of Toisnot Town.

The Everton Journal has been sent to us by Naomi Christensen, daughter of Walter Marion Everton, founder of *Everton's Genealogical Helper* who was a Morman missionary in Wilson County during 1897-98. During that time he lived with local families and made daily entries about the people and activities in the area. There will be small items printed in Trees from time to time, and the Journal will be placed in the Library after it has been indexed.

There were several announcements after which Sue introduced Peter Thompson, a native of Wales and a genealogist, who spoke about his life and his genealogical research. Peter gave us some personal background relating that he grew up in northern Wales, which is rich in gold, and the southern part is industrial. He spent twenty-two years in the Royal Air force, part of which he was assigned to duty taking care of Prince Charles's personal effects. In fact, he related interesting stories, which indicate that he might well be related to the royals on the "wrong side of the blanket."

His father's folks, who lived on the North East Coast of England, kept records, but the ones for his mother's family were not so good, and with her name being Jones, it was difficult to trace her line. He regaled us with amusing and informative stories about his search. It was an interesting as well as an informative session. There were numerous questions awaiting him at the end of his program.

Upon completion of Peter's presentation, the meeting was adjourned allowing the members time to visit and have an informal discussion with him.

*Frances Roberson*

## APRIL 2007 BOARD MEETING

The springboard meeting for WCGS was held at the Powell's home with an opening welcome to Henry who was home for his first evening in several months. It was good to have him with us.

Founding Families book discussions were held as to the proofing and how to obtain helpers. Sue is working on the T names now and thinks she will have more time for its completion with hopes of having it at the printers soon. She will obtain two draft copies to be used for the proofing. So, it is time for help in checking for possible errors.

The 2008 calendar pictures were discussed. Thus far none have been turned in. We believe it is early in the year for our members to think of next year, but we must be working on ideas as to how to obtain the needed pictures and the time frame from which we will select those to print. Of course, we will use the earliest ones but will consider through the forties, as need be. Our library has some from which we can choose in the case of a lack of member participation. Wanda Taylor will be the editor. She did a fantastic job last year!!

The map, which was represented as one from 1876, seems to be the same as the one from 1882. After careful consideration, it was decided to write an article for Trees explaining the research efforts.

Renewals for this year are gradually coming in with a membership slightly over 200.

The new postage increase has made it necessary for us to increase the price of mailing of our books and maps. Thus an overall increase to $4.50 was approved.

It was decided to hold the annual social in June again this year and to have it at Spring Arbor Retirement Home, if it is available.

A requirement for board member attendance was discussed, and it was decided that we need to make adjustments in the rules for future members who do not attend a specified number of meetings.

Sue received a donated book, a journal compiled by Walter Marion Everton, a Mormon missionary who spent a year in Wilson between 1896 and 1897. Everton tells about visits and staying with different families here during that time. She says it is most interesting, and there is the possibility of sharing excerpts with our members in Trees from time to time. We would like to make a copy for WCPL but would prefer to have an index prepared first.

The meeting adjourned!

*Frances Roberson*
Secretary

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**Everton, Hays, Horn, Price, Woodard**

**June 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $3.00. Shipping cost for maps is $3.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 6.75% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
Total of items ordered $_____ Shipping $_____ Sales Tax $_____ Total of Order $_____

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# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

**August 2007** **Volume 16 Number 7**


**President's Message**

## U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative

[Taken from the US Department of Health & Human Services website.]

Health care professionals have known for a long time that common diseases - heart disease, cancer, and diabetes - and even rare diseases - like hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia - can run in families. … Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders to which you may be at risk and take action to keep you and your family healthy.

To help focus attention on the importance of family history, the U.S. Surgeon General … has launched a national public health campaign, called the U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative, to encourage all American families to learn more about their family health history.

**My Family Health Portrait**

Access My Family Health Portrait web version

Americans know that family history is important to health. … Because family health history is such a powerful screening tool, the Surgeon General has created a new computerized tool to help make it fun and easy for anyone to create a sophisticated portrait of his family's health.

This new, revised version of the tool, called "My Family Health Portrait" is a web-enabled program that runs on any computer that's connected to the web and running an up-to-date version of any major Internet browser. …

The web-based tool helps users organize family history information and then print it out for presentation to the family doctor. In addition, the tool helps users save their family history information to their own computer and even share family history information with other family members. The tool can be accessed at https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/.

If users prefer, they still can download the My Family Health Portrait software directly onto their own computers. The downloadable version of the tool can be accessed at: http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/download.html.

The U.S. Surgeon General makes the tool freely available to all users. No user information is saved on any computer of the U. S. federal government. …

When you are finished organizing your family history information, the tool will create and print out a graphical representation of your family's generations and the health disorders that may have moved from one generation to the next. That is a powerful tool for predicting any illnesses for which you should be checked.

[See pages 81 and 82 for copies of the forms.]

*Sue Evans Powell*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

August: no meeting

September 25: Ray King, subject to be announced

October 30: Douglas Rader, "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void"

November: Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers, Show and Tell, Social

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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees*.

January 29, 1864

Mr. John B. Woodard
Wilson P. O., N. C.

Dear Brother:

I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am sick at this time. I am poor as you ever saw me. I hope these few lines may go safely to you and find you well, and all the rest of the family. Bun, you wrote to me about my horse, that he won't work. If he won't work, you can sell him, if you think it best. I reckon Howell knows as much about him as anyone. If you sell him, get as much for him as you can. Don't swap unless you can make a good trade. I want to come home to see you all very badly. I think I shall get the chance to come home to see you all again. I should be glad to be with you all to eat some good sausage and ham and eggs. Write to me as soon as you get this letter. Bun, I want you to let me know how long you are going to stay at home. I remain your dear Brother until death.

GEORGE W. WOODARD

I am sick today. Excuse my bad writing.

Camp near Orange Court House, Va.
February 9th, 1864

Mr. W. W. Batts
Joyner's Depot, N. C.

Dear Brother,

I take the pleasure of writing you a

*(continued on page 74)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(Woodard Letters, continued from page 73)*


few lines to let you know that I am well at this time as common and hope you the same. Dear Brother, I haven't heard from you all in some time. Please write to me soon. If John Moore goes to see you, I want you to send me something to eat by him when he comes back. Tell Sister to send me a good pair of cotton pants by him. Tell Sister Betty to write to me and let me hear from them all. Tell her to send something good to eat. I expect my discharge back before long. I must close for this time.

So good-bye for this time.

GEORGE W. WOODARD

## JOHN B. DEANS OBITUARY

### *The Wilson Times,* September 18, 1917

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

MR. JOHN B. DEANS

The death of Mr. John B. Deans was a distinct shock to this community. While he has for some time been in poor health and only recently suffered another stroke of paralysis, yet his family and most immediate friends did not realize the summons would come so soon and that at 9:30 on Saturday night that he would be taken.

The deceased was prominent in all the walks of life and was highly esteemed by every one. He was a devoted husband and father, a devout Christian and in this particular showed his faith by his works.

The attendance of the Odd Fellows at his funeral yesterday over 100, almost the entire membership at this place, was an eloquent testimonial to the high place he held in the hearts of his brethren of that order.

Mr. Deans might be termed in very truth a self made man. He started at the bottom of his chosen profession when this city was much smaller than at present and soon became one of its leading contractors.

He built quite a number of the residences and business houses in the city and these stand as a monument to his memory for in all things he built wisely and well.

The services at the Christian church at four o'clock yesterday afternoon by his pastor, Rev. Bagby, and at the grave by the Odd Fellows was most impressive and peculiarly fitting to a life so well spent.

Mr. Bagby spoke from the passage of scripture where the Savior says that "I am the resurrection and the life," and he also read from Revelations, "These are they who have come up out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." His prayer was especially touching and comforting to the bereaved for he called attention to the splendid life of the deceased and that it had been true in every relation.

At the grave Grand Master Calvin Woodard and Chaplain Stanbury conducted the services, with Mr. Bagby offering the benediction.

The mound was left covered with beautiful flowers, mute but loving tributes from the many friends of the deceased who leaves us in his 63rd year and a wife and daughter to mourn their irreparable loss.

The active pall bearers were Messrs. W. R. Raper, J. E. Alphin, J. R. Deans, H. T. Thomas, J. S. Pittman and L. M. Garner.

The honorary pall bearers were Messrs. Jonas Oettinger, W. A. Finch, J. W. W. Thompson, Geo. Hackney, W. D. Hackney, E. A. Darden, I. [?] G. Mewborn, E. F. Killette.

[Editor's note: John B. Deans, 28 February 1854-15 September 1917, was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Wilson. *Wilson County, North Carolina Cemeteries—Volume IV,* compiled by Joan L. Howell. He was listed in the Wilson County 1900 census as a contractor in Wilson Township with his wife of four years Lula, born May 1868; son John A., born October 1897; and daughter Annie L., born February 1898. *Wilson County, North Carolina Federal Census of 1900,* abstracted by Joan L. Howell and Janice C. Sharpe.]

## SEWALL LAWRENCE FREMONT
### North Carolina *Professional Engineer*
**Written and contributed by J. Albert Bass**

[Editor's note: Mr. Bass sent this article along with a statement about an error in the June 2007 issue of *Trees of Wilson.* In the article on page 70, "Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Employees—1873," the name of the Chief Engineer and Supt. should be S. L. Fremont. Please make the correction to your copy of *Trees.*]

By an act of the North Carolina Legislature, on April 1, 1869, the name of the town of Nahunta was changed to Fremont, in recognition of his service to the Confederacy.

S. L. Fremont was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, on August 30, 1816, the son of Salmon and Tizrah Button Fish. He was named for two of his ancestors, Samuel Sewall, the jurist and James (Don't give up the ship) Lawrence. His parents moved to Charleston, New Hampshire, when he was young and it was from Charleston that he received his appointment to West Point. He graduated seventeenth in a class of fifty-two in 1841 and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the 3rd US Artillery.

He served in the Seminole War in the early 1840 's and was on garrison duty at Fort Johnston near Smithville (now Southport) from 1842 to 1845. It was while at Fort Johnston that he changed his name from Fish to Fremont, and persuaded his father and family to do likewise.

Fremont was reassigned to Texas in 1845 and rendered outstanding service in the Mexican War, from which he emerged as a Captain. He was stationed at the National Capitol and later again at Wilmington, before resigning from the Army in 1854 to pursue a career as an Engineer.

While at Wilmington he married Mary Elizabeth Langdon of Smithville, the only daughter of Richard and Mary Eliza Everett Langdon. Mary Elizabeth was a great-granddaughter of Samuel Langdon who had been Rector of Old North Church in Boston and later was President of Harvard University.

Finding employment as an Assistant Engineer of the United States, he was assigned to the improvement of the Cape Fear and the Savannah Rivers, but shortly afterward, on Dec. 8, 1854 he resigned this appointment and assumed the position as Superintendent and Chief Engineer of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, which was, at the time, the longest railroad in the world.

In Wilmington, Fremont was a charter member of St. John's Episcopal Church and was Senior Warden.

In early 1861, Governor John Ellis appointed Fremont as Colonel in the North Carolina Militia as Engineer and Chief of Artillery. In August of the same year, after the Federals captured Cape Hatteras, Fremont assumed command of the coastal defenses of North Carolina from New River, south to the South Carolina line. Fremont planned the fortification of Federal Point at Wilmington, which he named Fort Fisher in honor of his friend Charles Fredrick Fisher of Salisbury who had been killed at First Manassas. Fremont continued his duties as Superintendent of the W&W during the war along with his responsibility for coastal defense, but the responsibility for the works at Fort Fisher passed to the Confederate Government and were assigned to Charles Lamb.

As Superintendent of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Fremont worked through a friend in Massachusetts to bring into Wilmington through the Union Blockade, rails and other hardware, made in northern mills to keep the W&W in good operating order. It was Gen. R. E. Lee who commended the W&W as "the lifeline of the Confederacy."

Fremont was arrested in April of 1865 by Federal troops under the command of Gen. Sherman, who had been a classmate of Fremont at West Point. Sherman offered Fremont a pass to Nassau or other foreign port, but "if he remains in our lines, he ... must keep close indoors." The road was taken over for a time by the Federal Army, but was returned to the rightful owners shortly after Lee's surrender, perhaps as a result of the relationship between Fremont and Sherman. As Superintendent and Engineer, Fremont oversaw the rebuilding of the W&W, which after the war was in deplorable condition, both physically as well as financially. At the end of the war, substantial amounts of the track had been destroyed, and most of the bridges and warehouse terminal facilities were burned. The W&W resumed operations on August 27, 1865 with four locomotives, eleven box cars and five flat cars, but with no passenger cars fit for service.

Fremont resigned from the W&W in December of 1871 and assumed the same position with the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad which had been completely disassembled during the war for parts to keep the other roads in the Confederacy in operation. The WC&R was subsequently reorganized as the Carolina Central.

Fremont acquired Clarendon Plantation on the lower Cape Fear River in 1876, but continued his professional work serving as the designer for the North Carolina Asylum for the Colored Insane at Goldsboro in 1878. He was City Surveyor in Wilmington in the early 1880's and was in Memphis, Term, in 1886 doing design work when he died.

Fremont had been a strong Union man, but was also a firm believer in states rights. He was said to be a thorough soldier at heart and a stern disciplinarian with rigid principals of integrity.

Fremont and Mary Elizabeth had six children, Ellen Mae, Richard Langdon, Mary Lawrence, Sewall Lawrence, Jr., Mary Elizabeth and Francis Murray. Ellen Mae and Mary Lawrence died young, and Richard at the age of 23.

Sewall Lawrence Fremont, his wife, Mary Elizabeth as well as their six children are all buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington.

Sources: *The Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* by William S. Powell *A History of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad* by Howard D. Dozier.

[Editor's note: The Town of Fremont, referenced in the first paragraph, is just a few miles across the Wilson County line in Wayne County. Settled prior to 1830, the town has been known as Narhantes and Torhunta and was incorporated in 1867 as Nahunta. Located beside the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, it is appropriate that the town bears the name of the former railroad engineer. *The North Carolina Gazetteer,* William S. Powell

Mr. Bass wrote further that "Lawyers, politicians, newspaper editors, etc. are more widely known than are Engineers. For instance, most North Carolinians know of Hinton James as the first student to enroll at Chapel Hill [the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill]. You cannot find one in ten thousand who know that his degree was in Engineering, and that he practiced as an Engineer his whole life."]

## REBECCA MURPHY WATSON WINBOURNE

### Contributed by Kathryn Winborne Webb Barnhill

MEMORIAL TO MRS. WINBORNE

A tribute from Mrs. F. A. Woodard, read at the memorial hour, Thursday noon, May 1, at the convention of the U. D. C.

MRS. REBECCA WINBOURNE

Maker of the First Flag of the Confederacy

Wilson, July 26, 1918.—The death angel visited the home of Mrs. Rebecca Winborune Tuesday morning about 2 o'clock and claimed the grand old mother in Israel who had lived to the ripe age of eighty-seven years. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. H. T. Webb with whom she made her home, and Mrs. W. J. Whitfield, one son, Mr. Charles Watson by her first husband, fourteen grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and hosts of friends to mourn their irreparable loss.

A paragraph in an article written by Mr. R. B. Evans on the subject is a fit introduction to this paper. He says: "The names of Mrs. Winbourne and the late Captain Orren Randolph Smith, of Henderson, North Carolina, are inseparably linked together with the Southern Confederacy, from the fact that Captain Smith designed and Mrs. Winbourne made the first Confederacy flag."

Mrs. Winbourne's almost accidental association with the coming into existence of the Bonnie Blue Flag elevated a sweet, lovely, Southern woman from the obscurity of every day life to prominent mention in the history of the Lost Cause.

Much has been said about the origin of the flag and it is not my purpose to deal at length with that historical event but rather to place before you something of the woman who stitched the stars and bars on a field of blue and wrought the emblem that our fathers fought under and our sons and daughters will love until the South forgets, which the South never does.

Captain Smith said, "The idea of my flag I took from the Trinity, "Three in One." The three bars were for the Church, the State and the Press. Red represented State, legislative and judiciary; white for church, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; red for press, freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and liberty of the press—all bound together by a field of blue (the heaven over all) bearing a star for each state in the confederation. The seven white stars all the same size were placed in a circle, showing that each state had equal rights and privileges, irrespective of size and population. The circle, having neither hand nor foot, stood for eternity, and signified, "You defend me and I'll protect you."

I had the flag all complete in my mind before the Confederate Congress advertised for models, and when the advertisement appeared I went to my friend Miss Rebecca Murphy (later Mrs. Winbourne) and asked her if she would make me a little flag. I'd tell her how. I tore the bars and cut the stars and she sewed the stitches, and when finished the little flag was sent to Montgomery, with a suggestion that a star be added for each State that joined the Confederacy. The flag committee, as you know, accepted the flag and named it the Stars and Bars. They also adopted the suggestion and it was not long before the flag bore eleven stars for the eleven Confederate States that voted for Jefferson Davis to be president.

After the small flag was sent to Montgomery I bought dress goods from Barrow's Store and asked Miss Rebecca to make me a large flag nine by twelve feet, for whether the flag Committee accepted my model or not I was determined that one of my flags should be floating in the breeze. Splicing two tall saplings together, I made a pole a hundred feet high and planted it on the courthouse square at Louisburg, N. C. and the flag was sent aloft Monday, March 18, 1861, two months before North Carolina seceded. Over the flag was floating a long blue streamer like an Admiral has on his ship when homeward bound, and on this pennant I had stars for each state that had seceded and one for North Carolina, for, though my state was still in the Union, I knew she was homeward bound.

I have been able from those who knew her to learn a few facts in regard to the life of the woman, who as a young lady in 1861, proudly and lovingly constructed the flag under which Lee and Jackson led thousands of brave and patriotic Southern men to battles.

In 1861 she was a young woman, with deep brown eyes, soft dark hair, regular features of the Grecian type, a face that was both attractive and intellectual. She was of average height and size.

She was called Rebecca although her full name was Catherine Rebecca Murphy. She was born in Louisburg, North Carolina, on the 22nd day of November 1831. Her father Joseph Murphy was for many years chief of police of Louisburg. During the war he served in the army of the Confederacy. Her mother was named Harriet Murphy.

Rebecca was one of the early graduates of Louisburg Female College. She was a studious girl and was regarded as brilliant by her teachers and fellow pupils. After her graduation she accepted a position as a teacher in South Carolina, and from then on, even during her married life she continued to teach for many years.

In her early twenties she married Jerman Watson, a young man who had come from Ottawa county, Virginia, and established a buggy shop in Louisburg. They lived happily to-

*(Continued on page 77)*

*(Winbourne, continued from page 76)*
gether for eight years during which time three children were born to them. Edwin, Enever and Charlie. After Mr. Watson's death his wife continued her residence in Louisburg, and it was during her widowhood that she made the flag.

On the 4th of March, 1866, Mrs. Watson married a second time. Her last husband was Mr. W. B. Winbourne, a prosperous farmer of Nash county, and a man who had served through the war in the ranks of the Confederacy. There were three children by this marriage, Harriet Josephine who became Mrs. W. J. Whitfield, and who now resides in Wilson; James, who died in infancy, and Rebecca, now Mrs. H. T. Webb of Wilson, N. C.

Mrs. Winbourne's second husband died on March 12, 1883. Some eight years later she moved to Wilson County and made her home with her daughters in the town of Wilson until her death on the 23rd of July 1918, which came as the result of paralysis. Mrs. Winbourne was an earnest sincere Christian, a member of the Methodist Church, which she had joined as a young woman. It was said of her that from girlhood to her venerable old age she had spent her life endeavoring always to do her bit towards making the world happier and better.

She was buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Wilson on Wednesday following her death. The funeral was attended by the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Jessie Barnes Camp of Confederate veterans and later acting as pallbearers. The bier was draped with the "Stars and Bars," a silk flag presented to Mrs. Winbourne by Miss Smith daughter of Captain Orren Smith. The Daughters had charge of the many beautiful flowers with which they covered the last resting place of this good woman and placed thereon the "Stars and Bars."

A beautiful feature of this exercise was the marching in of the Junior chapter of Wilson with baskets of flowers singing an appropriate anthem. After the exercise these flowers were placed on the graves of the Members of the Wilson chapter in beautiful Maplewood Cemetery.

[Editor's note: Ms. Barnhill wrote that Rebecca Winborne was her great-grandmother. The third child of Rebecca and William Brock Winbourne was Rebecca Ivy, who married Henry Thomas Webb. Rebecca and Tom Webb were her grandparents.

In her application to join the United Daughters of the Confederacy, submitted January 23, 1911, Mrs. W. B. Winbourne stated that she was "the wife of W. B. Winbourne who belonged to Company B, Brook's Rifle Guard, 10th Regiment and was discharged on Close of the war in '65." In the remarks section was the statement, "Mrs. Winbourne made the first Confederate flag from Mr. O. R. Smith's design, the Stars and Bars. The material was brought to Mrs. Winbourne on Sat. Mar. 16, 1861, & she says, 'we sewed & worked on the flag as hard as we could, but did not get it finished by Sat. night, so we completed it Sun, & early Monday morning Mar. 18, Mr. Orrin Randolph Smith raised this flag in Louisburg, N. C. it being the first Confederate flag ever displayed in North Carolina."]

## ETHELDRED FRANCIS RUFFIN
### Hugh B. Johnston Thomas Family File

Etheldred Francis "Dred" Ruffin was born on July 22, 1830, in Franklin County, and died on February 17, 1864, in Greene County at the old two-story home still standing not far south of Contentnea Creek from Stantonsburg, but he was buried in the Ruffin family graveyard. His parents were Henry John Gray Ruffin and wife Mary Tartt. In 1855 he married Elizabeth Lee "Lizzie" Kennedy, daughter of Colonel William Lee Kennedy (May 1810-December 6, 1870) and wife Sidney Delzell Crawford. She was born on October 13, 1833, in Greene County, and died on January 28, 1906, in Wilson. She was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, but the old Ruffin graveyard has vanished where her father and other members of the family were buried. On April 26, 1871, she was living in Wilson County and married as her second husband the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Thomas Person, with the Rev. C. C. Dodson officiating, but that is another story.

Etheldred Ruffin received his A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1851 and settled on the land in Greene County that his father bequeathed to him in 1854. On June 23, 1861, he enlisted as Orderly Sergeant in Company H, 9th North Carolina State Troops (1st North Carolina Cavalry) Regiment, C. S. A. About January 1863 he was promoted to 1st Sergeant. His health had become so bad by February 4, 1864, that he was honorably discharged from the Confederate Service at Milford Station, Virginia.

He took the next train to Wilson and thence by carriage to his home where he was treated unsuccessfully by Dr. John T. Graves of Stantonsburg who on February 8 billed the estate of "Capt. E. F. Ruffin" for "Services During night." By June 2, 1864, C. C. Peacock was serving as administrator of the Ruffin estate, and he was succeeded by George W. Stanton by October 30, 1869, at which time the two daughters Mary and Delzell were living with their mother in Greene County in the home still standing in 1985 and claimed for some years past to be in a triangle belonging to Wilson County south of Contentnea Creek.

On January 26, 1871, George W. Stanton, administrator of E. F. Ruffin of Wilson County, sold to John Wilkinson for $85 10 or 12 acres in Wayne County adjoining the late Thomas Ruffin and William Thompson; witnessed by W. F. Borden and Alvin Bagly.

Children of Etheldred and Elizabeth (Kennedy) Ruffin

1. Mary Lee Ruffin was born on June 15, 1857, and died on December 15, 1916. She married the Hon. John Exum Woodard, the celebrated criminal lawyer of Wilson. They had five children: Thomas Ruffin, John Exum, Dexxell Ruffin, Mary Lee, and Etheldred Henry.
2. Delzell Crawford Ruffin (1862-1934) married Henry Hamilton "Guv" Hutchinson (1860-1903). Their family lie in Maplewood Cemetery in Wilson. They had one son, Henry Hamilton, Jr.

Sources:
Wilson County Estates, 1854-1919, C. R. 105.508.46, Etheldred F. Ruffin folder, in the North Carolina Department of Archives.
Wayne County Deed Book 31, p. 407

## THE STARS AND BARS

### *The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags,* Peleg D. Harrison, 1906

**Contributed by Kathryn Winborne Webb Barnhill**

There are two claimants for the honor of devising the design that was adopted for the first national flag of the Confederacy, Mr. Orren Randolph Smith, of Henderson, North Carolina, and Mr. Nicola Marschall, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The story of Mr. Smith and his model of the flag was given at sundry times by his daughter, Miss Jessica Randolph Smith, in a correspondence of some three years, during which she rendered various valued aid to my researches for information about American flags, not only in her own State, but in other sections of the South.

Mr. Smith was born on December 18, 1827, in Warren County, North Carolina. On the first of October, 1846, he volunteered for five years, or during the war with Mexico. He was mustered into the service on the 19th of January, 1847, at Wilmington, North Carolina, and became a member of Company H, First North Carolina Regiment of Volunteers. On the 2d of March his regiment embarked for Point Isabel, where it landed on the 28th of the month. In June, 1848, after the declaration of peace, his regiment sailed for home, and he, with the rank of captain, was discharged at Smithville (now Southport), North Carolina, on August 7, 1848.

Mr. Smith was in Kansas when President Buchanan sent Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, in command of United States forces, to Utah to coerce the Mormons into obedience to Federal authority, which he accomplished. Smith, with the rank and pay of lieutenant, left Fort Leavenworth with the United States troops on June 10, 1857, for Utah, where he remained until the fall of 1858, when he returned to North Carolina and made his home in Louisburg.

Mr. Smith says he was an original secessionist, and before the advertisements appeared in the newspapers asking for designs for a Confederate flag, he had an emblem for the Confederacy in mind. He devised a model, purchased bunting of John Barrow, and had a flag about 12 by 15 inches made by Mrs. German Watson, nee Miss Catherine Rebecca Murphy, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Murphy, who was then a widow. Her sister, Miss Sarah Ann Murphy, who was for the "Union," refused to assist in making a pattern for a Confederate flag, but while Mr. Smith and Mrs. Watson were engaged upon it, she entertained them by singing and playing "Dixie" and other Southern songs on the piano. Soon after the war Miss Sarah married Lieutenant James A. Miller of the Union army, and both are dead a number of years.

Mr. Smith states that he sent his model by mail to Montgomery, but to whom it was addressed he does not say, and some time after it was announced in the newspapers that the Confederate Congress had adopted his design. Unfortunately, as he states, these newspapers were destroyed during the war, and he cannot remember their titles.

Without waiting to hear whether or not his design had been adopted he had Mrs. Watson make a flag of ladies dress goods bought from John Barrow, 9 by 12 feet, in accordance with his design, and raised it in Louisburg, it being the first Confederate flag to float in North Carolina. An account of this flag is given further on.

It was a compliment indeed to have Congress adopt the design for a Confederate flag that came from the "Good Old North State," which had not then seceded, and neither did she pass an ordinance of secession until two and a half months afterward.

It is a surprising fact that Mr. Smith did not tell his family that he devised the design for the Confederate flag until some eight years ago. Since then his claim has been published in several Southern newspapers, and remained undisputed until February, 1904, when the *Lost Cause,* a periodical of Louisville, Kentucky, printed Mr. Nicola Marschall's statement that he devised the design that Congress adopted for the first national flag.

Desiring to corroborate the claim of her father, Miss Jessica Randolph Smith in December, 1904, had inquiries for the whereabouts of Mrs. Watson, who after the war had married Mr. W. P. Winborne [sic.] and removed from Louisburg, published in several newspapers, which resulted in finding her at Pine Tops, North Carolina, where she had made her home for many years.

Mrs. Winborne, again a widow and then seventy-three years of age, appeared before Justice of the Peace W. L. Dunn, of Pine Tops, on the 16th of January, 1904, and made an affidavit relative to the making of the model for the Confederate flag and the large one that was displayed in Louisburg.

She states that in "the second week of February, 1861, Orren Randolph Smith brought me some pieces of bunting and asked me to make him a flag, just exactly as he told me, for the Confederacy," which she did. She says: "The design was composed of a blue field and three stripes, one white and two red, and on the blue field I sewed seven white stars in a circle, a star for each State that up to that time had seceded. This flag was about a foot long." She further states that when the flag was finished Mr. Smith sent it to Montgomery, and that some time after he learned that his design had been accepted.

Mr. Smith enlisted the first of June, 1861, in the Second battalion, North Carolina troops, Lieutenant-Colonel Wharton J. Green commanding, at Warrenton, Warren County. He went with the three companies that were sent to Richmond, and remained there until the first of August, when the battalion was ordered to Wilmington. He asked for and obtained five days' leave of absence and left the battalion at Weldon for Louisburg, for the purpose of placing his mill, which he had recently purchased, in charge of some reliable person. While there, in attempting to stop a runaway mule team, he was thrown down and had his right arm shattered at the elbow. When he was sufficiently recovered he was appointed quartermaster in the Confederate service, with the rank and pay of major, under Major George Grice, with headquarters at Marion, South Carolina, where he remained until the close of the war.

For a number of years his home has been in Henderson, North Carolina, with his business interests, that of building mover and contractor, centered in Raleigh.

*(Continued on Page 79)*

*(Stars and Bars, continued from page 78)*

Following is the story of Mr. Marschall's design for a Confederate flag, as told in the *Lost Cause*:

"THE FIRST CONFEDERATE FLAG

"It is not generally known who designed the first Confederate flag—the red, white and red, known as the Stars and Bars. It is but just that due credit should be given the proper person.

"In 1849 there emigrated to this country a young Prussian artist. After two years' study in Munich and other European art centers, he located in Marion, Alabama, just as a party were leaving for the gold fields of California, and among them an uncle of the young artist, who tried to persuade him to join them, but he decided he was already far enough from home.

"He plied his brush with such diligence and skill as to enlist the interest of many of the rich planters of that favored section of country, and for whom he painted many beautiful portraits. Governor Moore was governor of Alabama. His two daughters married two of the sons of Colonel Lockett, one of the prominent and influential families of Marion.

"Texas had just seceded on February 1, 1861. No flag had been adopted, and calls were made for a suitable design. Mrs. Lockett, being a friend of the young artist, who by this time had distinguished himself in his art, went to him and told him the Confederate Government wanted a flag, and suggested he would design one similar to the United States flag. He took his pencil and made two designs. The one red, white and red with the blue field in the upper left corner and seven stars, the number of States that had at that time seceded. The other design was a narrow red stripe, at top and bottom, with a broad center stripe divided in half—the right half of white, the left half of blue with seven stars. We are all familiar with the one adopted.

"The name of the young artist was Nicola Marschall.

"When the war broke out, fired with zeal and love for his adopted country, he enlisted in the Confederate army, helping to garrison the forts Morgan and Hall's Mill, etc. during the first year.

"Mr. Marschall served for a time, and on the advice of Major Currie, while at home on a furlough, he hired a substitute for fifteen months. Then at the call for more volunteers, Mr. Marschall again enlisted as a civil engineer in the second Alabama Engineers Regiment, with Colonel Lockett, under General Polk, just before the fall of Vicksburg. Colonel Lockett was a son of Mrs. Napoleon Lockett.

"He served with distinction to the close of the war.

"Major Jabez Currie (one of the large cotton planters of Alabama) had relatives living in Kentucky who induced Mr. Marschall to come to Kentucky and resume his profession as portrait painter. He located in Louisville, Ky., where he still resides, and continues his work."

In response to my inquiries for particulars, dates, etc., relative to the making of his designs, Mr. Marschall wrote on December 16, 1904: "I have nothing to add to the article in the *Lost Cause*, as that states all I know, and the dates I have forgotten."

He stated that he painted three designs on paper, sketches of which, in colors, he inclosed. The third design was like the second which has been described, except that the flue field was placed in the middle of a white stripe.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Marschall I wrote to Miss Mary E. Jones, of Marion, Alabama, the Reverend William A. Stickney, of Faunsdale, Alabama, the pastor of Mrs. Napoleon Lockett, and her son, Dr. Albert Lockett, of Brenham, Texas, for information relative to his design for a Confederate flag, but neither one had any personal knowledge of it.

In a letter of January 25, 1905, Mr. Marschall informed me that he was the originator of the gray uniforms, with bars and stars on the collars, worn by the Confederate army. These were suggested by the gray uniform, with green facings, of the Sharpshooter Regiment of Austrians, which he saw in Verona, Italy, in 1858. He sent sketches in colors of the uniforms worn by different arms of the Confederate service.

## LOUIS HENRY BARNES OBITUARY
### *The Wilson Times*, June 26, 1913

Contributed by J. Robert Boykin

Mr. L. H. Barnes.

Mr. L. H. Barnes, of Black Creek died this morning at his home in Black Creek. He was 50 years of age and leaves a wife and child.

The deceased is brother to Mrs. C. L. Perry and Mr. L. A. Barnes, of Wilson. He is the son of Ex-Sheriff Barnes of Black Creek who still survives him.

The burial will be conducted at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the cemetery in Black Creek.

Mr. Barnes was a prominent farmer and business man and popular in the Black Creek section.

[Editor's note: The 1870 Wilson County Census lists the Town of Black Creek household of Augustus Barnes, age 30, retail grocer; Sallie, age 27; Lewis H., age 8; Frank E., age 2; Penny, age 1 month; and Selvanh Taitlor, age 14, domestic servant.

In the 1880 Wilson County Census, Augustus Barnes, age 43, farmer, lived in the Town of Black Creek with his wife Sallie Ann, age 38; and children Lewis H., age 17, farm worker; Franklin E., age 12, farm worker; Etta, age 10; Luther A., age 8; Minnie, age 5; and George Horne, age 19, servant on the farm.

In the 1900 Wilson County Census, their Town of Black Creek household included Augustus, born June 1834, grocery clerk; his wife Sallie A., born March 1842; son Louis H., born Jan. 1862, saloon clerk; daughter Etta P. Taylor, born March 1870; grandson Archie L. Taylor, born March 1889; and son Luther A., born Oct. 1872, saloon keeper.

Louis Henry Barnes was buried in the Black Creek town cemetery. His marker is a double with Maude Anna Barnes and gives his dates as b. 1862, d. 1913. The WPA records record his dates as b. 02 Jan 1862, d. 26 Jun 1913.]

## NEW BOOKS AT WILSON CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY

- *Ministers and Churches of the N. C. Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church*, compiled by Stephen Bradley
- *Roster of Revolutionary War Gravesites of Soldiers, Patriots and Ancestors Buried in N. C.*, compiled by the NCDAR
- *Wake County, N. C. Marriage Records 1781-1867, Vol. 1-3*, compiled by Frances Terry Ingmire

## LOST COLONY DNA STUDY

### Contributed by C. C. Lucas

Is your family part of the Roanoke Lost Colony? It could be! My name is Roberta Estes and I'm the Director for DNA Research for the Lost Colony Center for Science and Research. (www.lost-colony.com) Our goal is to discover the fate of the Roanoke Lost Colonists.

For those of you who don't know about the mystery of the Lost Colony, here's a primer. In 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh financed a venture in which 116 men, women and children were planning to establish the first permanent colony in the New World. Their goal was to raise tobacco and other supplies that colonists were unable to obtain in England, and to search for precious minerals, like gold.

In the fall of 1587, the colonists finally arrived on Roanoke Island in present day North Carolina, after a very difficult journey in which their food supplies were ruined. They sent John White, whom they had elected governor, back to England to obtain food and supplies and expected his return in the spring of 1588. However, the Spanish attacked England and England, having no Navy, impressed all of her fishing vessels and private merchant ships into Naval service. Finally, in 1590, three years after leaving the colonists which included his daughter, son-in-law and infant granddaughter, he returned to Roanoke Island to find it deserted, but not destroyed. It appeared as if the colonists had simply moved. A single word, a clue, Croatan, was carved on a tree. The Croatan were the friendly Indians living nearby. Before John's departure, he had instructed the colonists to carve crosses if they had to leave in distress. There were no crosses.

John White would spend the rest of his life searching for the Lost Colonists. Many hints and clues indicate that at least some of the Colonists survived and were assimilated into the native tribes. The question is, did they, and if so, who are they today?

In 1993, the original site of the Croatan village was located. Subsequent archaeological and genealogical research suggests that the colonists did survive, and that when the land was granted to settlers, it was granted to some of those survivors who were by that time considered to be Indians. With recent advances in DNA for genealogy, we finally have, today, the ability to solve the mystery.

We have created a plan that combines history, genealogy and DNA to solve the mystery. However, we can't do this alone. We need the help of the families who have been identified as "families of interest," being either roster members of the Lost Colony of those who obtained land grants on the original Croatan village site. Many of those names are the same.

In order to educate people and work closely with people who are interested, we are sponsoring the Lost Colony Symposium for DNA and Recent Research Sept. 7-9, 2007 at the Lost Colony Center in Williamston, NC. The symposium will be held between the Center and the Holiday Inn, as noted on the flyer at http://www.lost-colony.com/DNAsymflyer.html.

Given that your surname is one of those on our "Names of Interest" list, I hope that people on the list will join with us in our research. I am hoping from this mailing, aside from encouraging people to attend the Symposium, to achieve the following:

1. To identify a primary research person or persons for your particular surname who would serve as a contact/coordinator for future postings, requests and research.
2. To identify a family archival website (s) if one exists.
3. To identify if there are any families of that surname that are from NC (or early coastal SC or VA), have oral histories of Indian or "mixed" heritage, are involved with any of the tri-racial isolate groups (Melungeons, Red Bones, etc.) and/or have any oral history of the Lost Colonies.
4. To determine if the family group is involved already with DNA testing, and if so, who coordinates that effort.
5. To determine if there is any research occurring or that has occurred for your surname in Great Britain, and if not, if anyone is interested in pursuing that avenue.

To become involved with the Lost Colony project, or to support the project, please attend our Symposium. Our project plan will be announced at the Symposium, and we have a long list of wonderfully educational speakers. Bring your pedigree charts and your genealogy as the right people will be present to help you with your testing plan.

If you can't attend the conference, you can still join the project. Information will be posted shortly about how to do that on the Lost Colony website. We are in the process of setting us a private newsgroup for project members only which will also be available after the symposium. Furthermore a blog is being created and blog location info will be posted on the Lost Colony website as well.

If you are interested in this project or can be of help in any way, please contact me at restes@comcast.net.

**Following is a list of names the Lost Colony Research center is searching for:**

| Surname | Source |
|---|---|
| Allen | Colonist roster |
| Alligood | Family of Interest |
| Archard | Colonist roster |
| Archard | Family of Interest |
| Armstrong | Family of Interest |
| Arthur | Colonist roster |
| Austin | Family of Interest |
| Bailie | Colonist roster |
| Barber, Barbour | Family of Interest |
| Barrow | Family of Interest |
| Beasley | Family of Interest |
| Bennet | Colonist roster |
| Bennet | Family of Interest |
| Berde | Colonist roster |
| Berry | Family of Interest |
| Berrye | Colonist roster |
| Bishop | Colonist roster |
| Blount | Family of Interest |
| Borden | Colonist roster |
| Boyd | Family of Interest |
| Bragg | Family of Interest |
| Bridger | Colonist roster |
| Bridger | Family of Interest |
| Bright | Colonist roster |
| Bright | Family of Interest |
| Brooke | Colonist roster |
| Brooks | Family of Interest |
| Browne | Colonist roster |
| Bryant | Family of Interest |
| Buck | Family of Interest |
| Burden | Colonist roster |
| Butler | Colonist roster |
| Butler | Family of Interest |
| Cage | Colonist roster |

*(continued on page 83)*

# The U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative
# How to Create My Family Health Portrait

***Knowing your family's medical history can save your life.***

## What Information Do I Need?

- **Talk directly with your relatives.**
  Explain to them their health information can help improve prevention and screening of diseases for ***all*** family members.
- **Ask about any health conditions they have had.**
  If possible, get as much specific information as possible. Ask about chronic illnesses, such as heart disease and diabetes; pregnancy complications, such as miscarriage; and any developmental disabilities.
- **If possible, list formal names of conditions.**
  It may be helpful to create a separate page with detailed information and descriptions about any medical conditions your relatives may have had. Also, list medicines your relatives may be taking.
- **Get help finding information.**
  Ask relatives or health care professionals for information about health conditions that have affected you or your family members--living or deceased. If possible, get copies of medical records.
- **Is there cancer or a rare condition in the family?**
  If so, it is important to collect information from as many family members as possible. If someone is deceased, ask other relatives or check to see if doctors have retained those medical records.
- **Are you planning to have children?**
  You and your partner should ***each*** create a family health portrait and show it to your health care professional.

### Talk To Your Family

**Most Important**
Parents
Brothers and Sisters
Your Children

**Also Important**
Grandparents
Uncles and Aunts
Nieces and Nephews
Half-Brothers and Half-Sisters

**Also Helpful**
Cousins
Great Uncles and Great Aunts

***You can also fill out the form online at: https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/***

## How Do I Fill Out The Form?

"My Family Health Portrait" will help you collect and organize your family information. No form can reflect every version of the American family, so use this chart as a starting point and adapt it to your needs.

**1. Write each of your relatives' names in the designated boxes. Circle whether they are male (M) or female (F).**

Some conditions are more common in people with a shared background or ancestry. So, if you know the ancestry of your relatives and/or the country they come from, note it on the form.

For twins, write "twin" on the first line. If the twins are identical, write "identical twin" on the first line for both. If your family includes half-brothers or half-sisters, write "half-brother" or "half-sister" on the first line, and note "same father" or "same mother" on the next line.

**2. On the lines under the boxes, write the names of any health conditions your relatives have had.**

If you know the age at which the condition was diagnosed, also note it. For example, diabetes (diagnosed-age 37). If family members have died, write "deceased" and the age at which they died. For example, heart attack (deceased-age 63).

**3. Once you have completed this form, take it to your health care professional.**

Your health care professional can use the information to better individualize your healthcare.

**4. Make a copy for your records.**

Be sure to update the form as circumstances change or you learn more about your family's health.

# My Family Health Portrait

Name: _

Date: _

*You can also fill out the form online at: https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/*

Grandmother

Grandfather

Grandmother

Grandfather

Aunts/Uncles

Mother

Father

Aunts/Uncles

Brothers/Sisters

you

Spouse/Partner

Your Children

*(Lost Colony Names, continued from page 80)*

| Surname | Source |
|---|---|
| Cahoon | Family of Interst |
| Cain | Family of Interest |
| Carawan | Family of Interest |
| Caroon, Carron | Family of Interest |
| Carrow | Family of Interest |
| Chapman | Colonist roster |
| Chapman | Family of Interest |
| Chavis | Family of Interest |
| Cherry | Family of Interest |
| Cheven | Colonist roster |
| Collins | Family of Interest |
| Colman | Colonist roster |
| Cooper | Colonist roster |
| Cooper | Family of Interest |
| Cotsmur | Colonist roster |
| Cox | Family of Interest |
| Crisp | Family of Interest |
| Croom | Family of Interest |
| Cuttler | Family of Interest |
| Daniel | Family of Interest |
| Dare | Colonist roster |
| Darige | Colonist roster |
| Darige | Family of Interest |
| Dixon | Family of Interest |
| Dorrell | Colonist roster |
| Durrance | Family of Interest |
| Durrant | Family of Interest |
| Dutton | Colonist roster |
| Earnest | Colonist roster |
| Edwards | Family of Interest |
| Ellis | Colonist roster |
| Ellis | Family of Interest |
| English | Colonist roster |
| Evans | Family of Interest |
| Farre | Colonist roster |
| Farrow | Family of Interest |
| Fitspatric | Family of Interest |
| Florrie | Colonist roster |
| Forbs | Family of Interest |
| Gaylord | Family of Interest |
| Gibbes | Colonist roster |
| Gibbs | Family of Interest |
| Glane | Colonist roster |
| Gramme | Colonist roster |
| Griffin | Family of Interest |
| Gurganus | Family of Interest |
| Gurkin | Family of Interest |
| Hardison | Family of Interest |
| Harris | Colonist roster |
| Harris | Family of Interest |
| Harviem | Colonist roster |
| Harvie | Family of Interest |
| Harvye | Colonist roster |
| Hassell | Family of Interest |
| Hawkins | Family of Interest |
| Hedgepath | Family of Interest |
| Hemmington | Colonist roster |
| Hewet | Colonist roster |
| Hill | Family of Interest |
| Hodges | Family of Interest |
| Howe | Colonist roster |
| Hudson | Family of Interest |
| Humfrey | Colonist roster |
| Hynde | Colonist roster |
| Jackson | Family of Interest |
| Jennette | Family of Interest |
| Jerkins | Family of Interest |
| Johnson | Colonist roster |
| Johnson | Family of Interest |
| Jones | Colonist roster |
| Jones | Family of Interest |
| Kemme | Colonist roster |
| Keys | Family of Interest |
| King | Family of Interest |
| Lasie | Colonist roster |
| Lathan | Family of Interest |
| Lawrence | Colonist roster |
| Leary | Family of Interest |
| Little | Colonist roster |
| Long | Family of Interest |
| Lowery | Family of Interest |
| Lucas | Colonist roster |
| Lucus | Family of Interest |
| Mackey | Family of Interest |
| Mann | Family of Interest |
| Mannering | Colonist roster |
| Martyn | Colonist roster |
| Mayo | Family of Interest |
| McCoy | Family of Interest |
| Merrimoth | Colonist roster |
| Midgette | Family of Interest |
| Moor | Family of Interest |
| Mullins | Family of Interest |
| Myllet | Colonist roster |
| Mylton | Colonist roster |
| Newton | Colonist roster |
| Nicholas | Family of Interest |
| Nicholes | Colonist roster |
| Nicols | Family of Interest |
| Norman | Family of Interest |
| Padgett | Family of Interest |
| Pain | Family of Interest |
| Paramore | Family of Interest |
| Patrick | Family of Interest |
| Pattenson | Colonist roster |
| Payne | Colonist roster |
| Payne | Family of Interest |
| Perry | Family of Interest |
| Phevans | Family of Interest |
| Phevens | Colonist roster |
| Philpatrick | Family of Interest |
| Pierce | Colonist roster |
| Pierce | Family of Interest |
| Pinkham | Family of Interest |
| Pollock | Family of Interest |
| Powell | Colonist roster |
| Powell | Family of Interest |
| Prat | Colonist roster |
| Pugh | Family of Interest |
| Respass | Family of Interest |
| Ricks | Family of Interest |
| Rollinson | Family of Interest |
| Rufoote | Colonist roster |
| Russell | Family of Interest |
| Salter | Family of Interest |
| Sampson | Colonist roster |
| Sawer | Family of Interest |
| Scot | Colonist roster |
| Scot | Family of Interest |
| Shaberdge | Colonist roster |
| Shephard | Family of Interest |
| Simmons | Family of Interest |
| Smart | Colonist roster |
| Smith | Colonist roster |
| Smith | Family of Interest |
| Smart | Colonist roster |
| Sole | Colonist roster |
| Sparrow | Family of Interest |
| Spendlove | Colonist roster |
| Spenser | Family of Interest |
| Squires | Family of Interest |
| Starte | Colonist roster |
| Stevens | Colonist roster |
| Stevens | Family of Interest |
| Stilman | Colonist roster |
| Stilman | Family of Interest |
| Sutton | Colonist roster |
| Sutton | Family of Interest |
| Swann | Family of Interest |
| Tan | Family of Interest |
| Tappan | Colonist roster |
| Tarkington | Family of Interest |
| Taverner | Colonist roster |
| Taylor | Colonist roster |
| Tetterton | Family of Interest |
| Thomas | Family of Interest |
| Tom, Toms | Family of Interest |
| Tomkins | Colonist roster |
| Topan | Colonist roster |
| Tuley | Family of Interest |
| Turner | Family of Interest |
| Tydway | Colonist roster |
| Viccars | Colonist roster |
| Viccars | Family of Interest |
| Wahab | Family of Interest |
| Wallis | Family of Interest |
| Warner | Colonist roster |
| Warren | Colonist roster |
| Warren | Family of Interest |
| Waters | Colonist roster |
| Waters | Family of Interest |
| Welch(s) | Family of Interest |
| White | Colonist roster |
| White | Family of Interest |
| Wildye | Colonist roster |
| Wilkinson | Colonist roster |
| Willes | Colonist roster |
| Williams | Family of Interest |
| Wood | Colonist roster |
| Woolard | Family of Interest |
| Wotton | Colonist roster |
| Wright | Colonist roster |
| Wyles | Colonist roster |
| Wyles | Family of Interest |
| Wythers | Colonist roster |

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
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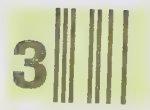

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| | |
|---|---|
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| | |
|---|---|
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|---|---|
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# TREES OF WILSON

## Wilson's Family Heritage

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

September 2007 Volume 16 Number 8


## President's Message

Welcome back after the summer break. We hope that your summer was a good one, that you had an opportunity to do family research, and even better—that you were able to expand your family information.

We include in this issue transcriptions of three original documents that provide helpful information.

The Calhoun family left the Wilson County area; however, the John Cohoon pension application provides information about others as well as their family.

The Isaac Williamson estate sale is another of the documents that are so helpful for researchers in many families. It includes so many names and puts those people at a certain place at a given time.

The Vaughan vs. Farmer court record includes more than the suit that was brought before the court. A will was presented, and Batts family connections were given. A review of Hugh Johnston's Batts family file revealed that this court record gave the name of a Batts daughter's husband, the approximate dates of their deaths, and the name of their son, all information that Mr. Johnston did not have.

As it has been said before, the answers that you seek may be found in what would seem to be unrelated records. When you have covered the obvious sources, expand you search into other local records.

This fall, as in years past, WCGS offers a new member special. Those persons who join after October 1 will receive the remaining issues of Trees of Wilson for 2007 and all of the issues for 2008. What a nice gift that would be to say thank you to someone who has helped you!

*Sue Evans Powell*

## SEPTEMBER 25TH MEETING
### Wilson County Public Library
### Assembly Room, 7:00 PM

Please join us for our regular meeting on September 25th to learn more about researching early Virginia ancestors.

Ray King will speak to us on "Early Virginia Land Records" which centers on the early Jamestown settlers. He has chosen this topic in recognition of the 400 anniversary of Jamestown.

Those who have heard Mr. King speak know that he has a vast knowledge of genealogical research methods, techniques, and facts. They also remember that his delivery keeps his listeners entranced as he covers his material.

WCGS by-laws specify that at our September meeting the slate of nominees for the officers for the upcoming year are presented, and the floor will be open for additional nominations.

The following are the nominees:
President: Wanda L. Taylor
Vice-President: Richard Rountree
Secretary: Frances W. Roberson
Treasurer: Sue Evans Powell
Member of the Board: Jerry Stancil

The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be elected for a one year term. The president and vice president can serve no more than two consecutive terms. The board member is elected for a three year term. Laura Newsome and Jane Poston are currently serving continuing terms as board members.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the September meeting. The election of officers be held at the October meeting.

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees.*

Camp near Orange Court House
February 11th 1864, Va.

Dear Sister,

I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time, all except the diarrhoea. I hope these lines may go safe to you and find you all well and doing well. I have nothing to write important to you, only very cold weather here and snow on the ground. We are in winter houses. Sister, I want you to tell Bill Batts to send my shirts and pants if he can get someone to come and fetch them to me, for I need them very bad indeed. Tell Bill Batts if there is any more wants to come to this Company or any other and joined it or in Lee's Army, I can get a thirty-days furlough. Tell Bill Batts to write to me and let me know how you are getting along. Tell Sister Beedy to write to me and let me know how they are getting along. Tell Mary Gray to write to me. Bunyan, write to me and let me know how you are getting along.

I must close by Saying I am yours, Sister, until Death.

[George W. Woodard]

Army of the Confederate States
Report of Soldier's Death
Post at Gordonsville, Virginia
General Hospital, C.S.A, April 1st 1864

Private G. Woodward, of Company A (Captain Briggs) 55th North Carolina

*(continued on page 86)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

This chronicle is published by the Wilson County Genealogical Society, organized February 26, 1991. Address: P.O. Box 802, Wilson, NC 27894-0802. Telephone 252-243-1660. Internet address:

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(**Woodard Letters**, continued from page 85)*


Regiment, died in this Hospital on the 23d day of March, 1864, of Diarrhoea Chronica. An inventory of the effects of the deceased, and Quartermaster's receipt have been forwarded to the office of the Second Auditor of the Treasury.

B. M. LEBBY
Surgeon in Charge.

For the Captain of
Company A
55 N. Ca. Regiment

## BENJAMIN FRANK LANE OBITUARY

### *Daily Times*, February 29, 1916

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

The death of Mr. Frank Lane, which occurred at his late residene on Nash street at nine o'clock this morning, removes one of the most progressive of Wilson's citizens, a man who might be termed a pioneer in certain lines of industry, his energy and ideas having borne good fruit in the industrial progress of the city.

Mr. Lane might be termed the father of the cotton seed oil industry of this place. He organized the first company for the manufacture of products from cotton seed, and today the output of several factories are sent far and wide over the land.

Prior to his removal to Wilson, Mr. Lane was a leading farmer of the county, and in this occupation he was interested to the day of his death.

Of late years he owned and operated what is known as Barefoot's Mill, and it was his aim and purpose to some day locate a huge grist and flour mill in this city.

In addition to all that he has striven to do for his community and people, Mr. Lane was a devoted husband and father, and a devout Christian. He was probably the oldest steward of the Methodist church in this city, of which he was a faithful and zealous communicant.

The deceased was 58 years of age, and a citizen of Wilson 17 years. He leaves a wife and three sons, Dr. P. P. Lane of Waycross, Ga., Mr. Julian Lane of Raleigh and Rosser Lane of this city, and a brother, Mr. H. B. Lane of near here, and one sister, Mrs. H. E. Thompson of Stantonsburg.

Mr. Lane has been confined to his bed since last September with a combination of carcinoma and partial paralysis of the throat.

The funeral will occur tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. W. A. Stanbury will conduct the services, assisted by Rev. M. Bradshaw of Raleigh. The following are the pall bearers:

Honorary—F. M. Bridgers, R. P. Watson, J. F. Bruton, J. A. Corbett, W. J. Davis, P. L. Woodard, Geo. Hackney, Asa Bishop, Dr. W. S. Anderson, Dr. E. T. Dickinson, J. Oettinger, J. L. Wiggins, Dr. L. J. Herring, Dr. C. A. Thompson, Lawrence Bryan and J. S. Woodard.

Active—Geo. L. Morgan, W. W. Graves, J. F. Eagles, W. Condon, E. A. Darden and Ben S. Thompson.

[Editor's note: In the 1900 census, Benjamin F. Lane, born July 18, 1857, married 14 years, secretary treasurer of an oil mill, lived in Wilson Township. Living with him were his wife Clara A., born August 27, 1863, had four births with three living children; and their sons Paul P., born January 1887, at school; Julian, born July 1889, at school; and Roper, born June 1893. Also living in the household were Louiza Hyman, born April 1881, cook; his mother-in-law Fannie M. Faircloth, born June 1838, widow; and sister-in-law Fannie M. Faircloth, born June 1880. Benjamin and Clara (died July 8, 1931) were buried in Maplewood Cemetery. (*Wilson County, North Carolina Federal Census of 1900, Wilson County, North Carolina Cemeteries—Volume IV*)]

## JOHN COHOON
### Compiled by Hugh Buckner Johnston

John Cohoon, son of William Cohoon and wife Sarah Powell, was called John Cohoon, Jr., until his uncle of the same name moved to Bladen County. In May Court, 1769, John Cohoon, Jr., was a Juror in Edgecombe County (Minutes of Edgecombe County Court). On July 14, 1766, John Calhoon was called son-in-law and executor and daughter Priscilla Calhoun was left three slaves and a cow and calf in the will of Jacob Flowers of Edgecombe County (Abstracts of Edgecombe County Wills, p. 128). In February Court, 1772, John Cohoon, Aaron Hargrove, Samuel Ruffin, and George Gardner bonded the guardian of the orphans of John Proctor (Court Minutes). In July Court, 1774, John Cohoon was on a Grand Jury (Court Minutes).

On October 22, 1777, Henry Flowers of Bladen County sold to John Cohoon of Edgecombe County for £100 proclamation money 290 acres south of Tyancokey Swamp (from a grant to said Flowers on February 9, 1760), witnessed by Aquila Cohoon, Moses (X) Coleman, and William (X) Folk (Edgecombe County, Deed Book 3, p. 268). On February 20, 1779, John Cohoon and Aquilla Cohoon witnessed a deed of Jordan Thomas to Jacob Joyner in Edgecombe County (Edgecombe County, Deed Book 3, p. 393). On October 9, 1783, John Cahoon patented 100 acres adjoining Jordan Thomas, Little Swamp, and Jacob Holland (Patent Book 50, p. 71; Deed Book 4, p. 506). On April 25, 1787, Sampson Proctor was bonded as a Constable in Horn's District by John Cohoon and John Williams (Court Minutes).

On September 19, 1788, John Cahoon, Sr, sold to Thomas Broadribb for £40 in specie 150 acres south of Thomas Mercer's Mill Creek adjoining John Morris and said Cohoon, witnessed by Joel Cohoon and John Morris (Edgecombe County, Deed Book 5, p. 35). Perhaps it was his family that was listed in the Edgecombe County Census of 1790 with one male over sixteen, two males under sixteen, and one female (Heads of Families, etc., p. 157). On March 11, 1793, Simon Cohoon and Joel Cohoon, heirs and executors of the late John Cohoon, and Priscilla (X) Cohoon, the widow, sold to William Faulk of Edgecombe County for £15 a tract of 100 acres north of the main prong of Tyancokey Swamp and south of the little prong adjoining Jordan Thomas and Jacob Thomas (patented by Cohoon on October 9, 1783), witnessed by Sampson Proctor and Absalom Williams (Edgecombe County, Deed Book 10, p. 3).

The undated will of John (X) Cohoon was probated in February Court, 1789, in Edgecombe County (Edgecombe County, Will Book C, p. 82): (1) wife and executrix Priscilla Cohoon, use of all property not bequeathed; (2) son and executor Joel Cohoon, slave, and the plantation where he was living, excepting fifty acres; (3) daughter Mary, one slave; (4) daughter Charity, one slave; (5) daughter Avy, one slave; (6) son Simon Cohoon, two slaves at his mother's death, also the home plantation, plus the fifty acres from his brother's tract; (7) witnesses Mary Morris and Molley Proctor.

On February 16, 1789, Priscilla Cohoon and Joel Cohoon, executors of the late John Cohoon, made an inventory of his personal property (Inventories of Estates, 1788-1790, p. 130): 20 sheep, 2 hives of bees, 6 slaves, 5 horses, 13 cattle, 26 geese, 12 ducks, 16 hogs for house use, 101 other hogs; riding saddle, broken saddle, woman's saddle, 2 bridles; 5 barrels of brandy, 3 rawhides, side of leather, some flax, some cotton, about 30 barrels of corn; 2 razors, 2 guns, pair of saddle bags; 4 beds and furnishings, pine table, pine chest, gilt trunk, brass candlestick, case of bottles, brass ink stand, Bible, Prayer Book, Testament, slate; 5 spinning wheels, 2 water pails, 2 washing tubs, water can, half-bushel, iron-tooth hackle, 3 pairs of cotton cards, 2 pairs of woolen cards, loom and gear; 520 penny nails, about 20 pounds of iron, iron stamp shoe, joiner iron; 6 weeding hoes, 3 grubbing hoes, 3 plow hoes, iron colter, 3 cutting axes, 3 pairs of cart wheels, 2 horse collars and hames, 2 bells, 30 cider barrels; 3 files, crosecut saw, handsaw, iron frow, 2 iron wedges, carpenter's adze, claw hammer, 2 drawing knives, 2 augers, 4 chisels, 2 gimlets, 4 shoemaker's awls, grindstone, pair of gristmill stones, 2 mill picks and other articles belonging to the water mill, 2 reap hooks; sugar box, tole dish, iron pot, broken pot, iron skillet, frying pan, iron spoon, pepper box, wooden spice mortar and pestle, 10 great bottles, 2 snuff bottles, 2 butter pots, jug, 11 knives and knife blades, 9 forks, pair of cloth shears, glass tumbler, churn, 5 pewter dishes, 6 pewter plates, 6 earthen plates, 4 pewter basins, 19 spoons, box iron and 3 heaters, 3 split baskets, some straw baskets, meal gum, knife box, meal sifter, 2 bread trays, iron roast meat hook, pint pot.

[Editor's notes:

See pages 88-89 for Joel Cahoon's application for a Revolutionary War service pension. Joel, son of John and Priscilla Cohoon, married Naomy Futrell.

Ave Cohoon, daughter of John and Priscilla, "apparently" married Daniel Futrall. It is likely that they moved to Trigg County, Kentucky.

Simon Cahoon, son of John and Priscilla Cohoon, died in Edgecombe County where his estate was inventoried on February 25, 1808. His widow Sally remarried to Ezekiel Young, and they relocated to Christian County, Kentucky, with her four children by 1819.

Phillip Cahoon, son of John and Priscilla Cohoon, served in the Edgecombe County Militia during the Revolutionary War.

Aquilla Cohoon, son of John and Priscilla Cohoon, moved to Burke County, Georgia, where Sarah Calhoun applied for administrator of his estate on April 25, 1803.

Charity Cohoon, born about 1771, daughter of John and Priscilla, married Drewry Bridges.

Source: Hugh B. Johnston's Calhoun Family file.]

## WALTER MARION EVERTON JOURNAL
### Contributed by Naomi Everton Christenson

Sept. 29, '96

Tuesday. A stormy, rainy, windy day. We left Mr. [Allison] High's quite early. All four of us went down the country. Elder Wright and I took dinner with Mr. J. J. Wilson after which we joined Pres. H. and Elder P. at Mr. Windham's P. O. where we wrote a number of letters for Pres. H. when we were done Pres. H. & Elder P. went down the country to H. C. Taylors and left Elder W. and I at Mr. Windham's where we stayed all night. I got a letter from home. All is O. K. there.

## PENSION APPLICATION OF JOEL COHOON (CAHOON, CALHOUN) W8576
### Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements
**Transcribed by Will Graves**

State of Kentucky, Trigg County

On this 27th day of September 1833 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Joel Cohoon a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy years, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. He says he was born on the 9th day of July 1763 in Edgecombe County North Carolina, that he has now in his house a record of his age, made by his parents, that in the year 1781, he was enlisted in the Service of the United States for the term of three months, he was mustered into service at Nash Court house North Carolina under the Command of Colonel Crain that he marched from Nash Court house North Carolina to High Rock Ford on Haw River, where he joined head quarters under the command of General Green [sic. Nathanael Greene], Colonel Reed and Major Coffield, he say as he, with the Army, went from High Rock Ford, in pursuit of the British and did not overtake them, until they arrived at Ramsey's Mill on Deep River, where a few guns were fired, but in no general engagement, he remained at said Mills with General Greene two or three weeks, he says at such Mills he was placed under the Command of General Butler [John Butler] with whom he served until he was discharged, which took place in Wake Court house, he received his discharge for said three months service from General Butler, he was in no battle during said time, he has either lost or mislaid his discharge, he does not remember the month in which he was enlisted but he was discharged in May 1781. He says after his discharge he returned to his father's in Edgecombe County North Carolina, when he arrived at his father's the British were within six miles of his father's house and at that time one James Merit [sic. Merritt?] had been drafted, or it came to his time to serve a tour of duty for three months, and he said Merit applied to this applicant, to serve said tour of duty for him as his substitute, and this applicant did agree to do so, and did substitute and took the place of said James Merit and served the said tour of three months in the year 1781, the month he entered the Army he does not remember, but thinks it was June, he says this time he was mustered into service at Tarborough Edgecombe County North Carolina, under the Command of Colonel Hart, Major Scarber [sic. Scarborough?] or some such name, Captain James Wilson, Lieutenant Bell, Ensign William Fort, he says during this tour he was engaged in pursuing the Tories in the neighboring Counties, he was in no engagement, but was scouting during the time. He says he does not now remember the names of any of the Continental or Militia Regiments or Companies with which he served. He says while in the Army of General Greene he knew Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] and he believes Colonel Washington [William Washington], he says he did serve in the Army of the United States the two tours of six months each as above stated making in all six months. He says he was discharged from the service the last tour he served at Tarborough Edgecombe County North Carolina, he received his discharge from Colonel Hart, he has either lost or mislaid it. He says he has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He says he resided in Edgecombe County North Carolina from his birth until about twenty seven or eight years ago when he removed to the place at which he now lives, which is in Trigg County Kentucky, he says he is well acquainted with Drury Bridges, Isaac Sumner, Jonathan Ricks, James Thomas, John Futrell, Thomas Futrell, Joseph Martin, James Holland, James Lawrence and Bazell Holland who are his immediate neighbors and can testify as to his Character for veracity and their belief as to his service as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension [roll] of the Agency of any State.

This applicant makes the following answers to the Seven interrogatories prescribed by the War department, viz.:
To the first. He says he was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina on the 9th day of July 1763.
2nd That he has a record of his age, in his house made by his parents.
3rd He says he was living in Edgecombe County North Carolina when he was called into service each time and Continued to live there until about twenty seven or eight years ago when he removed to where he now lives, which is in Trigg County Kentucky.
4th The first three months he served he was enlisted or he was drafted, the second he was a substitute and for James Merit.
5th He says General Greene, Colonel Crain, Colonel Reed, Major Coffield, General Butler, Colonel Hart, Colonel Lee, Major Scarber were with the troops at times when he served, that he does not recollect any of the names of the Continental or Militia regiments, and that he has in the previous part of his declaration stated the general circumstances of his service.
6th He says he did received two discharges from the service, the first was given by General Butler and the second by Colonel Hart and that day are both either lost or mislaid.
7th He says he is known in his present neighborhood to Drury Bridges, Isaac Sumner, Jonathan Ricks, James Thomas, John Futrell, Thomas Futrell, Joseph Martin, James Holland, James Lawrence and Bazell Holland, who can testify as to his Character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joel Cohoon

*(Continued on page 89)*

*(Cohoon Pension, continued from page 88)*

State of Kentucky, Trigg County

On this 29th day of March 1849 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Trigg County Court, Naomy Cohoon a resident of Trigg County Kentucky aged Eighty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow [of] Joel Cohoon who was a private in the revolutionary war – and for that service obtained a pension from the United States by Virtue of the act of Congress passed the seventh of June 1832. That she does not know how long he was in the service or where he entered or left the same neither does she know under what officers the services were rendered, but she refers to the declaration of her said husband and the testimony accompanying the same now as she supposes on file in the War Office. She further declares that she was married to the said Joel Cohoon on the fourth day of August in the year 1785, that her husband the said Joel Cohoon died the 15th day of October 1835, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, viz: at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow never married since the death of her said husband and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

S/ Naomy Cohoon, X her mark

Kentucky, Trigg County

This day Mariam Williams personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Trigg County court and made oath that she was present at the marriage of Joel Cohoon and Naomy Futrell, that said marriage took place on the fourth day of August 1785 in the County of Edgecombe County State of North Carolina, that Naomy Cohoon who is about to make an application for a pension is the same Naomi Futrell who was then married – that said Joel Cohoon died on the 15th day of October 1835, that Joel Cohoon and Naomy Cohoon lived together as man and wife from the date of their marriage until his death, that said Naomy Cohoon is now a widow and has never married since the death of her said husband Joel Cohoon. S/ Mariam Williams, X her mark

State of Kentucky, Trigg County

This day Charity Bridges personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Trigg County Court and made oath that she was not present at the wedding of Joel Cohoon and Naomi Futrell but was present at their [illegible word, looks like "infern"], that said marriage took place on the fourth day of August 1785 in the County of Edgecombe North Carolina. That Naomi Cohoon who is about to make an application for a pension is the same Naomi Futrell who was then married, that said Joel Cohoon died on the 15th day of October 1835, and Joel Cohoon and Naomi Cohoon lived together as man and wife day of their marriage until the death of said Joel Cohoon, that Naomi Cohoon is now a widow, never having married since the death of her said husband Joel Cohoon.

S/ Charity Bridges, X her mark

[Attested by James Thomas, JP]

Tarboro, No. Ca. Feby 23rd 1849

Dear Sir:

In reply of 13th of February, I have to state that I had made diligent search in my office & have not found any record evidence of the marriage of Joel Cohoon to Naomi Futrell in [illegible word] the records in my office dealing to marriages, were so badly kept until within the last 40 years, that it is almost impossible to find any marriage that happened before that time, by record evidence – I learn that persons of the name of Cohoon lived here about the time of which you speak, and the name is not extinct even now. The name Futrell was not as uncommon as here 50 years ago. I regret that I cannot furnish the record prove and hope that other testimony will be received by the Commissioners of Pensions.

Very Respectfully
yours
S/ Jas. [illegible last name, looks like "Waflus"]
Edgecombe County Count

M. Mayes, Esq.
Cadiz, Kentucky

[Editor's note: Mr. Johnston's compilation of the records found in Edgecombe County for Joel Cohoon, son of John and Priscilla Flowers Cohoon, was included in the October 1999 issue of *Trees of Wilson.* Joel, born July 9, 1763, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, married on August 4, 1785, to Naomy Futrell, born about 1767, "by Proclamation of publication, which was legal in that and other states."

Joel sold his land in Edgecombe County in May 1804 and March 1806, and moved to Trigg County, Kentucky, where he died October 15, 1835.]

## ISAAC WILLIAMSON ESTATE (1855)

### Wilson County, NC State Archives

**Krista Williamson**

The following is the transcribed Account of Sale from the Isaac Williamson (Sr.)'s original estate records. I have included all typos & spelling errors as is. If a word was illegible or absent I placed it in ( ). I find this document interesting, as Isaac's wife Sarah (MERCER) had filed for divorce about two years prior to Isaac's death, yet is still listed as the widow here and petitioned the court for a widow's dowry.

ACCOUNT OF SALE

(Page 1)

An account of the sale of the Property of Isaac Williamson, Dest. sold by Alfred Thompson his special Adm. on a credit of six months. Sold the 21st of August 1855

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Weeding Hoes | to Bartley Deans | .20 |
| 1 " | " " | .20 |
| 1 Plow & Plow frame | " " | .55 |
| 1 Round Shave | " W. W. Williamson | .67 |
| 1 Plow Hoe | to Willy Williamson | .25 |
| 2 Weeding Hoes | " Bartley Deans | .25 |
| 1 Stell (Still?) Trap | to Jesse Simpson | 2.00 |
| 1 (Fsow?) | " Jesse Peelle | .30 |
| 2 Axes & 1 yoke | to Thos. Williamson | .25 |
| 2 " " 1 Hammer | " Bartley Deans | .20 |
| " Augurs | to " | .35 |
| 2 " | " W. W. Williamson | .55 |
| 1 Iron square & Reep hook | to John Barnes | .60 |
| 1 Plane & Chisel | to " | .95 |
| 1 Reep hook | " Nathan Peelle | .22 |
| 1 Round Shave | to Wriley Lucas | .63 |
| 1 Cooppers adz & 1 drawing knife | to Robbertson Baker | .90 |
| 1 Pr Compasses | " William Haynes | .20 |
| 1 Crowsing Iron | to Nathan Peelle | .17 |
| 1 Sithe blde & draw. Knife | to Jas Renfrow | .25 |
| 1 Hand saw & Piece of steel | to David Powel | .46 |
| 1 (Fsow?) & scrape Iron | to Willy Williamson | .40 |
| 1 Bot and Lumber | " Jas Renfrow | 1.00 |
| 1 Hand saw | to Wm. D. Johnson | .60 |
| 1 Bot bit & Brace | " Larry Lamm | .20 |
| 1 " Window Lights | " Stephen Lamm | .25 |
| 1 Jug | to Alsey J. Row | .70 |
| 2 (Sitt?) netts | " Silas Lucas | .05 |
| 1 lot Measures | to Jethrow Harrison | .41 |
| | (subtotal) | 13.76 |

(Page 2)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Lot Measures | to Jethrow Harrison | .35 |
| 1 Water Pail | " Widow | .10 |
| 1 lot Wool | " Calvin Bone | .30 |
| " Dark Red cow & yearling | " Hiliard Lewis | 9.00 |
| " Red cow & calf | to Gray Lodge | 8.05 |
| " " | " Laurenc Moor | 5.50 |
| " Spotted Bull | to Zachariah Bissett | 5.50 |
| " Red Steer | " Silas Lucas | 5.30 |
| 1 Shop & Tools | to Jacob Woodard | 11.00 |
| 1 Lot Iron & cart wheels | " " | .75 |
| 1 Blue chest | to Wm. Johnson | 2.05 |
| 1 lot of Wearing Apparel | " Willey Williamson | .25 |
| 1 Bed & contents | to Alsey J. Row | 8.00 |
| 1 Christian Monitor | to " | .25 |
| 1 Clock | to Widow | 2.00 |
| 1 Bed & contents | " Willey Williamson | 3.00 |
| 1 Trunk | " " | .50 |
| 1 Table | " Widow | .50 |
| 1 Lot clothing | " " | .05 |
| 1 Press | " Robtson Baker | 5.00 |
| 1 Side Board | to Willy Lamm | 8.00 |
| 1 Lot Shaving instruments | " Williy Williamson | .25 |
| 1 Slate | " " | .10 |
| 1 Bell | " Amos Ellis | .15 |
| 1 lot Bottles & glasses | " Willey Williamson | .12 |
| 1 Chest | " Jethrow Harrison | .50 |
| 1 Shot Gun | " A. J. Deans | .05 |
| 1 Rifle | " Willey Williamson | 8.05 |
| 1 " | " Amos Ellis | .65 |
| 1 Linnen Wheel | " Mathew Peelle | 2.85 |
| 1 Bed Stead | " Widow | .05 |
| 10 Sitting chairs | " " | 1.00 |
| 4 " | " " | .40 |
| 3 Barrels of corn | " Mabra Hinant | 13.50 |
| | (subtotal) | 105.12 |

(Page 3)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Bbls corn | to Mabra Hinant | 8.80 |
| 6 Hogs | " Willy Lamm | 13.00 |
| 1 Sow & 6 Pigs | " David Peelle | 3.00 |
| 3 Shoats | to Kisire Williamson | 3.00 |
| 5 Hogs | to Jacob Woodard | 7.00 |
| 4 Sows & 14 Pigs | " Hiliard Lewis | 13.00 |
| 8 Shoats | to Jacob Woodard | 8.41 |
| 3 Hogs | to David Powel | 11.05 |
| 4 Shoats | " Dempsy Powel | 7.50 |
| 1 Sow & Pigs & 1 Shoat | " " | 5.00 |
| 1 Hog | to Jesse Simpson | 2.50 |
| 1 Wheat (Fan?) | " David Peelle | 4.55 |
| 1 (Sithe?) & cradle | " Hiliard Lewis | 1.75 |
| 1 cart & wheels | to H. H. Williamson | 11.00 |
| 1 Horse | " Gray Sharp | 100.00 |
| 1 Sithe & cradle | to Bryant Bun | 2.00 |
| 1 Colt | " Jacob Jones | 30.00 |
| 1 yoke of steers | to Jacob Woodard | 29.50 |
| 1 Brandy Still | " Thos. Lamm | 25.00 |
| 5 1st choice Bbls | to Kisire Williamson | 2.55 |
| 5 2nd " " | " " | 2.16 |
| 5 3rd " " | " Willey Grissel | 1.10 |
| 1 Jack Mule | to Willey Lamm | 125.00 |
| 3 Bbls | " Amos Ellis | .25 |
| 1 1/2 Bushel | " Willey Williamson | .39 |
| 1 Apple Mile (?) | to Kisire Williamson | 4.53 |
| 1 crop Saw | " Gray Flowers | 2.85 |
| 1 lot of Flax | " Bartley Deans | .43 |
| 1 carry all | " " " | 35.25 |
| 1 Grind stone | " David Powel | 1.55 |
| 1 Cart Body | " H. H. Williamson | 1.00 |
| | (subtotal) | 463.12 |

*(Continued on Page 91)*

*(Isaac Williamson Estate, continued from page 90)*

(Page 4)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 lot cotton by the lb | to Widow | .60 |
| 2 R Harness & Irons | " Jethrow Harrison | .25 |
| 1 saddle & Blanket | to Bartly Deans | 1.99 |
| 1 " " Bridal | " Jethrow Harrison | 2.60 |
| 1 (Birised?) Statute | " E. Watson | .70 |
| 1 Life of Jackson | " Amos Ellis | .96 |
| 1 English Reader | " Widow | .05 |
| 1 lot of Books | " Stephen Boykin | .25 |
| 1 Table | to Jno. Evans | .10 |
| 1 Pan Fat | to Jacob Jones | .05 |
| 2 Sides of Lethur | " Dempsy Powel | .05 |
| marked Sheep | to Willey Grissel | 32.00 |
| 2 Bbls | " Kisire Williamson | .53 |
| 3 Pewter Basins | " Laurenc Moor | .95 |
| 2 " dishes | " Jacob Jones | 1.15 |
| 6 " Plates | " Willey Deans | 1.50 |
| 5 " " | " Laurenc Moor | 1.25 |
| 1 " Dish | " Hilliard Lewis | 1.95 |
| 1 lot spoons & Plates | " Willy Deans | .75 |
| 1 Pewter basin | " Willis Jones | .75 |
| 1 lot cups & Plates | " Asberry Blackwith | .20 |
| 1 lot Knives & forks | to Kisire Williamson | .31 |
| 2 Pr sheep sheers | " Amos Ellis | .21 |
| 1 lot Earthenware | to Jethrow Harrison | 1.70 |
| 1 Hacker | " Hiliard Lewis | .25 |
| 1 Blowing (Horne?) | to Dempsy Powel | .10 |
| 1 Stone churn | " Widow | .10 |
| 1 lot of (Wood ware?) | " " | .40 |
| 2 Tubs | to Kisire Williamson | .26 |
| 1 lot of " " | " Jethrow Harrison | .74 |
| 1 R steel yards | to Kisire Williamson | .25 |
| 1 lot of Biddles | " John Worrel | .10 |
| 1 Water Pail | " Dempsy Powel | .16 |
| 1 lot of Lumber | to Benny Simpson | .30 |
| | (subtotal) | 53.41 |

(Page 5)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Trays | to Widow | .05 |
| 1 Table | " Dempsy Powel | .30 |
| 1 Safe | to Jacob Jones | 4.00 |
| 1 Flat Iron | to Widow | .05 |
| 1 Woolen Wheel | to Amos Ellis | .05 |
| 1 " " | " Kisire Williamson | .16 |
| 1 Mortar | " Willey Deans | .50 |
| 1 Basket | " Kisire Williamson | .06 |
| 1 Spider | to Dempsy Powel | .50 |
| 1 Oven & Pan | " " " | .75 |
| 1 Pot | " John Evans | 1.60 |
| 1 Oven | to Gray Lodge | 1.05 |
| 1 lot Pot Iron | " Widow | 2.01 |
| 1 Shovel & Poker | " John Evans | .60 |
| 1 " " | " Dempsy Powel | .25 |
| 1 Pot Rack | to Widow | .10 |
| 1 Currying Knife | " Jno Evans | .10 |
| 1 lot of old Irons | " Willy Deans | .10 |
| 1 Box of Lumber | to " " | .10 |
| 1 lot " " | " Jacob Woodard | .05 |
| 1 Bbl & salt | to Kisire Williamson | 1.10 |
| 1 (Gum?) " " | " " " | .16 |
| 3 Old Bbls | " " " | .16 |
| 1 Bell | to Widow | .05 |
| 1 lot Lumber | " Willey Deans | .05 |
| 1 R (worssing?) bars | " Widow | .05 |
| 1 Meat bench | " John Evans | .05 |
| 2 Gourds | to Willis Jones | .31 |
| 2 Kegs & contents | " Alen Powel | .05 |
| 1 Side of Lether | to Jethrow Harrison | 1.05 |
| 1 lot of Old Iron | to Wm Heinz | .20 |
| 1 (Troth?) of Lard | " Willey Lamm | 2.00 |
| 1 " | " Widow | .10 |
| | (subtotal) | 15.11 |

(Page 6)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 Sides Bacon | to Asberry Blackwith | 6.60 |
| 1 Decanter & glass | " Dempsy Powell | .21 |
| 1 Tin Trunk | " Jethrow Harrison | .70 |
| 2 Pocket Books | " Willey Deans | .11 |
| 1 Jug | " Amos Ellis | .10 |
| 1 Potatoe Patch | to Dempsy Powel | 5.05 |
| 1 cotton " | " " " | 1.25 |
| 1 Pea " | " Gray Lodge | .41 |
| 1 lot of tools | to Jacob Woodard | .55 |
| 1 lot shattered corn | " Gray Lodge | 2.05 |
| 1 Gum 1st choice | to Bartly Deans | .73 |
| 1 " 2nd " | " Willey Lamm | .85 |
| 1 " 3rd " | " John Evans | .61 |
| 1 Bot 1st " | " " " | .10 |
| 2 " 2nd " | " " " | .20 |
| 1 shovel | to " " | .75 |
| 1 Bbl & Flax seed | " Jethrow Harrison | .90 |
| 2 Boxes | to Jno Evans | .21 |
| 1 Hogshead & gum | " Amos Ellis | .05 |
| 1 lot old Lether | to " " | .75 |
| 1 " Bbls | " Kisire Williamson | .05 |
| 1 Flax Brake | " Joseph Peelle | .25 |
| 1 Work Bench | to Kisire Williamson | .06 |
| 1 (Press?) and Platform | " " " | .10 |
| 1 Bbl | " Luke Simpson | .05 |
| 1 Ax | to Dempsy Powel | .50 |
| 1 Cider Troft | " Kisire Williamson | .05 |
| 1 Ax | to Jethrow Harrison | .08 |
| 1 Umbrella | to Lawrence Moor | .75 |
| | (subtotal) | 26.17 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Page 1 | 13.76 |
| " 2 | 103.12 |
| " 3 | 463.12 |
| " 4 | 53.41 |
| " 5 | 15.11 |
| " 6 | 26.17 |
| | $674.69 Total |

## JOHN W. VAUGHAN, BY HIS GUARDIAN, AND D. W. BATTS VS W. D. FARMER

### Supreme Court John W. Vaughan vs. W. D. Farmer, Case FF 14.120, Vol. 90 NC 607 (February 1884), North Carolina State Archives

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

State of North Carolina
Wilson County

Be it remembered that on the 21st day of April AD 1879 John W Vaughan an infant appearing by his Guardian Jas. W. Taylor & D W Batts, sued and prosecuted out of the Superior Court of the County aforesaid a writ in these words:

Wilson County: In the Superior Court.

John W Vaughan an infant
appearing by his Guardian
Jas W. Taylor & D W Batts  Summons for Relief
Against
W D Farmer

The State of North Carolina
To the Sheriff of Wilson County, Greeting:

You are Hereby Commanded to summon W D Farmer the Defendant above named if he be found within your County to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Wilson within 20 days after the Service of this summons on him exclusive of the day of such service and answer the complaint a copy of which is served with this summons, and let him take notice that if he fail to answer the said complaint within that time, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Herein fail not, and of this summons make due return,
Given under my hand and the seal of said Court this 21st day of April 1879

H. C. Moss, Clerk
of the Superior Court of
Wilson County.

And on the return day of said writ to wit: on the 22nd day of April 1879 at the Court House in Wilson, before H. C. Moss, Clerk of the Superior Court K H Winstead Sheriff of said County returned that he had executed the said writ by reading it to the defendant, And thereupon the said John W Vaughan et. al. by their attorneys Connor & Woodard comes and complains as follows,

Wilson County,  Superior Court.

D W Batts &
John W Vaughan an infant
appearing by his Guardian
James W Taylor, Pltffs.
Vs
William D Farmer, Defdt

The plaintiffs allege,

I That on the ___ day of ___ 1858 John Batts, Sr, late of the County of Wilson died having first made and published his Last Will and testament in the first item of which are the following words. "I give unto my wife Mary Batts during her life or widowhood the whole of the grist mill and contents and after the death or widowhood of my wife Mary Batts I give unto all my living daughters and to my grand daughters Mary A Gays living children one sixth part of the above named Mill unto my daughter Keziah Morris living children one sixth part of said Mill, I give unto my daughter Rebecca Batts one sixth part of said Mill, I give unto my daughter Basheba Williford one sixth part of said Mill, I give unto my Eveline Parker one sixth part of said mill, I give unto my daughter Milly Batts on sixth part of said Mill, The said Mill to be sold and the money divided as herin before named that is to say to be divided in six parts.

II That said Mill was duly admitted to probate at April Term 1858 of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Wilson County and the Executors named therein duly qualified and the said Mary Batts the said widow entered into possession of said mill and died during the year 1863.

III That plaintiffs are informed that the defendant has purchased the interest of Mary Ann Gays children Keziah Morris children and Eveline Parker in said Mill. That said Rebecca Batts died without issue. That Milly Batts intermarried with one ___ Vaughan and died during the year 1860 before the death of said Mary Batts leaving plaintiff John W Vaughan her only child and heir at law. That the interest of Basheba Williford has been conveyed to plaintiff D W Batts.

IV That defendant has been in possession of and receiving the rents and profits of said mill for ___ years and has failed to render to plaintiffs any account thereof. That said rents are reasonably worth $___ per annum.

*(Continued on page 93)*

*(Vaughan vs. Farmer, continued from page 92)*

V That James W Taylor is the duly appointed guardian of pltff. J W Vaughan who is an infant.

Wherefore plaintiffs demand judgement.

That said Mill be sold by some discreet person to be appointed commissioned for that purpose by the Court and that the proceeds of said sale after paying the costs be divided into six parts and that one sixth thereof be paid to James W Taylor guardian for the pltff. John W. Vaughan and one sixth part thereof to pltff. D W Batts as the assignee of Bashaba Williford and the balance be paid to defendant.

That a reference be had to ascertain the annual value of the profits of said Mill and that defendant pay to pltffs their share thereof.

Connor & Woodard
For Pltffs.

And the said William D Farmer by his attorney B H Bunn comes and pleads as follows, towit:

Superior Court, Wilson County

D W Batts &
Jno W Vaughan an
Infant appears by Jas W. Taylor, Guardian Pltffs
vs.
W D Farmer

Answer

Defendant answering says, That allegation 1st of the complaint is true a copy of said will is filed as a part of this answer. That allegation 2nd of the complaint is true.

That answering 3rd allegation he says that he has a deed for the entire mill property, signed by Wm B Batts W W Batts executors of John Batts, That after the death of Mary Batts the said Executors sold said land at the highest bid and this Defdt. Purchased the same and took deed therefore which is recorded in Book No 1 pages 913 & 914 Registers office Wilson County and that he paid the purchase money in full.

That 4th allegation is true, and this defendant is informed and believes that he is alone entitled to the said rents.

That 5 allegation is true, but this defendant further says that before the said Talyor was appointed guardian, that Jno B Batts was his guardian duly appointed by the proper Court.

And for further defence, this defendant says that the plaintiff D W Batts has received payment in full from the said Executors for his share of the said lands, and that the share of Jno. W Vaughan has been paid in full to Jno B Batts his former guardian, wherefore he demands judgt, that this action be dismissed at the cost of the plaintiff and that said defendant is seized in fee of said lands

B H Bunn Atty,
For Defendant.

Whereupon the said cause was transferred to the docket [of] Wilson County, Superior Court.

John W Vaughan Pltff.
Vs
W D Farmer Deft.

Case agreed.

Special proceeding brought in the Probate Court of Wilson County for an order for partition of the Mill property described in the Complaint, Summons was issued on the 2nd day of April 1879 and served upon the defendant April 22nd 1879, defendant by his answer sets up 1st the defense of sale seizur 2nd That the tutaton by his will converted said Mill property into personal property and therefore this action cannot be maintained by the plaintiff. The cause in thus transferred to the Superior Court in Term time for trial of the issues raised by the answer.

The parties have agreed to submit the case to the decision of the Court upon the following facts, Towit: John Batts Sr, late of the County of Wilson died on the __ day of __ 1858 leaving a Last Will and Testament which is in the following words viz.

I John Batts of the County of Wilson and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and ordain this my last Will and testament in manner and form as follows towit: 1st I give unto my wife Mary Batts during his life or widowhood one feather bed and furniture one Blue chest one cow and calf one sow and Pigs one clay bank mare one side Board and one blue beaufat all the Kitchen furniture and also one hundred acres of land together with the dwelling and other improvements with the whole of the Grist mill and contents and after the death or widowhood of my wife Mary Batts I give unto my son David W Batts the same hundred acres of land as given to my wife and after the death or widowhood of my wife Mary Batts, I give to all my living daughters and to my grand daughter Mary A Gays, living children one sixth part of the above named Mill unto my daughter Kessiah Morris living children one sixth part of the said named mill. I give unto my daughter Rebecca Batts one sixth part of the said mill. I give unto my daughter Bashaba Williford one sixth part of said Mill I give unto my daughter Eveline Parker one sixth part of said mill. I give unto my daughter Milly Batts one sixth part of said mill and desire after the death or widowhood of my

*(Continued on page 94)*

*(Vaughan vs. Farmer, continued from page 93)*
wife for said mill to be sold for the best price that can be obtained and the money divided as hereinbefore named, that is to say to be divided in six parts.
2 I give unto my daughter Rebecca Batts one feather bed and furniture and the side board after the death or widowhood of my wife Mary Batts.
3rd I give unto my daughter Milly Batts one feather bed and furniture one blue Beaufat after the death or widowhood of my wife.
4 I give unto my daughters Rebecca Batts and Milly – Fifty [acres] of land to join Jno B Batts land on the South east side of my lands
5 I give unto my son James B Batts sixty acres of land whereon he now lives to have and to hold
6 The balance of my land together with all other property belonging to me of every description not otherwise disposed of, I wish after my death to be sold for the best price that can be obtained and after paying all my just debts to whomever owing and the balance if any to be equally divided among all my living children. I wish after the death or widowhood of my wife for all the property as is left her and has not been given away before to be sold and the proceeds of said sale to be equally divided among my living children.
I hereby appoint and nominate my son William B Batts and my friend William W Batts my true and lawful Executors in testimony of my last Will and testament I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Novr 12th 1857 his
Witness John X Batts
James W Barnes mark
W D Farmer

That said will was admitted to probate at April Term 1858 of the Court of Peas and Quarter Sessions of Wilson County, and the executors therein named duly qualified and entered upon the discharge of the duties of their office.

That the said Jno Batts Sr left him surviving other heirs at law than his daughters and grand daughters who are refered to in first item of said Will, That Mary A Gay had but one child who was entitled to her share of the proceeds of the mill. That said child was an infant under ten (10) years of age and the said Mary A Gay was dead at the date of said Will, when the testator died. That Kesiah Morris who was dead at the date of said will had seven or eight children, at the death of John Batts Sr. and that all of them were under twenty one years of age when the said Batts died.
Bashaba Williford was under coverture at the time of said Jno Batts death.

That life tenant Mary Batts entered into the possession of said Mill and died during the year 1863.

On the 20th day of May 1864 the said Executors W B Batts & W W Batts sold said Mill and rendered an account thereof to the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions of Wilson County as follows.

Account of sale of one Grist Mill and contents as belonging to the estate of John Batts deceased sold on the 20th day of May 1864 on a credit of six months (⅔) two thirds of the value in Gold and silver, the other third to be paid in Currency money at the end of six months sold by W B Batts and W W Batts as Executors

one mill and contents to W D Farmer for $1000~

Signed W B Batts
W W Batts Exers"

Recorded in Book N 1 Page 497 of the Inventory and account sale of Executors and administrators.

That afterwards the said Executors Executed to the said W D Farmer a deed for the said mill property he having paid them the purchase money therefore and he entered into possession of the same and has setained it ever since said Deed is Recorded in Book 1 Page 912 Registras office Wilson County.

That Milly Batts one of the daughters of John Batts mentioned in the first item of the said Will married William Vaughan and had issue the plaintiff John W Vaughan and died during the year 1860. The said William Vaughan Survived his wife and died before the commencement of this action leaving other distributers thru the plaintiff.

That the other devisees of Legatees of John Batts have conveyed their interest in said mill to W D Farmer. That the sale made by the Executors as aforesaid was not made pursuant to the order of any court or for the payment of debts of the testator. But it was made by the Executors under the power supposed to be contained in said Will upon the honest belief that they had the right to make said sale under said Will – That no part of the purchase money of said Mill has been paid to the plaintiff or his guardian.
The defendant contends 1st That the said Executors had under said will power to make said deed, and that the same conveys a good title to the defendant for the whole of said Mill property –
2nd That by the Will the real estate embraced in the first item thereof was converted into personal property, and that only the personal representation of the said Milly – is entitled to recover her share thereof or to maintain any action therefore.
If upon the forgoing case agreed the Court shall be of opinion with the plaintiff, judgement is to be rendered for such relief as in the opinion of the Court, he may be entitled to upon the pleadings and facts. If the Court shall be of opinion with the defendant, judgement shall be rendered that the defendant go without day, and that he recover against the plaintiff his costs, and for such other and further relief as he shall be entitled to.

*(Continued on page 95)*

*(Vaughan vs. Farmer, continued from page 94)*

Connor & Woodard
Attys for Plaintiffs

Strong & Bunn attys
For Defdt.

Superior Court, Wilson County Spring Term 1882

John W Vaughan
vs Pltff
W D Farmer Judgement on case agreed
Defdt

This was a case agreed heard by agreement of parties by the undersigned holding the Court of the 3rd Jud. District as of the Spring Term 1882 of the Court aforesaid, but by agreement the decision to be rendered during the vacation and out of term. Upon consideration of the facts agreed as set out in said case agreed upon argument submitted by brief by plaintiff and defendant, it is considered by the Court that the plaintiff is not entitled to maintain the Equity set up and claimed by him against the defendant and so it is ordered and adjudged that the plaintiffs action be dismissed and the defendant go without day, & recover of the plaintiff and his surety on the prosecution bond the cots of this action to be taxed by the Clerk. From this Judgement the plaintiff takes and appeal to the Supreme Court and notice thereof is accepted by the defendant who waives the provisions of the Code as to the time when appeals shall be perfected.

John A Gilmor Judge &c

John W Vaughan
vs
W D Farmer

Whereas the plaintiff John W Vaughan has appealed from the judgement rendered in this action. Now therefore we H G Connor and J T Barnes undertake in the sum of Thirty Dollars that the said appellant shall pay all such costs as may be adjudged against him in said action by the Supreme Court upon his said appeal.

H G Connor
J T Barnes

H G Connor and J T Barnes having being duly sworn say that they and each of them are free holders and are worth Sixty Dollars over and above the debts liabilities and Homestead & personal property Exemptions.

H G Connor
J T Barnes

Sworn to before me this 24th day of Sept. 1883
A B Deans cfc

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN DOCUMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

### *A TO ZAX, A COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY FOR GENEALOGISTS & HISTORIANS*

Adze—a tool, which dates back to the Stone Age, variations of which were used in different skilled trades such as cooper, carpenter, log cabin builder, woodworker, hoop binder, or bridgebuilder
Auger—a tool used by a carpenter to make holes in wood or a larger version to make holes in the ground
Awl—a hand tool used to punch holes in leather, wood, etc.
Bbls—an abbreviation for barrels
Brace and bit—a tool used in several trades: rake maker, barrel maker, wheel maker, chair maker, carpenter
Carryall—a light vehicle pulled by one horse. The term was later applied to a larger, heavier carriage. The term was also used for a large purse used for carrying an assortment of miscellaneous articles.
Colter—a plow share
Cross cut saw—a saw designed to cut across the grain of the wood. It became the saw most commonly used to fell trees.
Coverture—legal status of a woman while she is married
Draw knife—a tool used in several trades: chair bodger, basket maker, rake maker, gate hurtle maker, cooper, wheelwright, carpenter
Flax Brake—a tool used in dressing hemp or flax
Froe—a tool used by a hoop bender; a basket maker; and a gate hurdle maker.
Gimlet—(auger bit) a steel tool used for boring holes in wood. A gimlet makes small holes, while an auger bit makes large holes.
Hack—a strong pickaxe or hoe. (There are several definitions; however, this one seemed more appropriate to this estate.)
Hackle—a device used to comb flax or hemp prior to the spinning process
Hames—part of a horse's harness
Mill Pick—a tool used by a millpeck, the person who sharpened millstones
Press—a large cupboard where clothes were kept
Reap hook—a farmer's tool used in harvesting grain; a sickle
Round shave—a tool used by a beasom maker and a cooper
Shoat—a young hog weighing about 100 to 180 pounds
Steelyards—a portable scale suspended horizontally from a hook or held in a person's hand. Also called a lever scale.

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**Cohoon, Farmer, Lane, Vaughan, Williamson, Woodard**

**September 2007**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
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| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
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| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
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| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
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| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
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| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
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# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

October 2007 Volume 16 Number 9


## OCTOBER 30TH MEETING

### Wilson County Public Library

### Assembly Room, 7:00 PM

Please join us for our regular meeting on October 30th to learn more about early settlers to the land vacated by the Tuscarora Indians.

Doug Rader, our speaker, is "in the process of assembling all the various records about initial settlement (1738-1750) in the area of the Contentnea Creek watershed, the heartland of the Tuscarora Nation prior to 1715, encompassing much of Wilson, northern Wayne and Green Counties." His paper draft is almost 50 pages at this time. He states that he has been surprised by the amount of evidence there is, when it is put together, for the first wave of immigration even though much of the detailed evidence has been lost. He has accumulated a collection of photocopies of original grant and deed records that is 4-5 inches thick.

He will share some of his findings presenting general settlement patterns and using the Peacock clan as an example which shows the stepwise movements and family associations that were typical. He will also present artifacts from Contentnea area plantations.

During our business session, we will vote to elect the officers for the upcoming year.

The following are the nominees:
President: Wanda L. Taylor
Vice-President: Richard Rountree
Secretary: Frances W. Roberson
Treasurer: Sue Evans Powell
Members of the Board: Jerry Stancil (full three year term), Phil Mooring (remaining year of a board member who resigned).

The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be elected for a one year term. The president and vice president can serve no more than two consecutive terms. The board member is elected for a three year term. Jane Poston is currently serving a continuing term as a board member.

The installation of officers will be held at the Annual Meeting in November. Also at the November meeting we will have a "show and tell" sharing time and a social.

## President's Message

In the fall, we often offer specials on membership and/or publications. They are good bargains for new members, existing members, and gifts to family or friends.

As previously announced, a new member who joins in October or November will receive a 14 or 13 month membership, the remaining issues of *Trees of Wilson* for 2007 and all issues of 2008.

**We will have an inventory reduction sale through the end of 2007 on three of our books and previous years' calendars:**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Wilson County 1870 Federal Census* | $25 |
| *Wilson County Cemeteries, Vol. III* | $25 |
| *They Moved Away* | $10 |

We are reducing to $2 each the earlier issues of the calendar from the existing inventory. Stantonsburg is not available.

Now is a good time to join, add to your library, or purchase a gift book or membership.

*Sue Evans Powell*

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we continue the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library. The complete collection will be included in future issues of *Trees*.

Picket Camp on the Rapidan
April 25th 1864

W. W. Batts, Esqr.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find final statement of George W. Woodard (Deceased). As you requested, the effects of what he had with him have been forwarded to Second Auditor's Office at Richmond, as the enclosed note from the Surgeon in Charge of the Hospital will show.

I have no news to write. The weather if beautiful, and we all are expecting a fight soon.

I am very Respectfully yours &C.,
B. F. Briggs

*(continued on page 98)*

## SARAH ELLEN PEELE OBITUARY

### Nash County, N. C.

### Contributed by Horace B. Peele

IN MEMORIAM

On April 11, 1902, at 11:30 o'clock Miss Sarah Ellen Peele, aged 13 years, 11 months, 23 days, the eldest daughter of Mr. Joel E. Peel and Mrs. Anna C. Peele was fatally burned by her clothing catching on fire from some burning straw.

She was an industrious child, and ever on the alert to help papa and mama, as she thought she was doing on that

*(continued on page 98)*

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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*(**Woodard Letters**, continued from page 97)*


Army of the Confederate States
Receipt for Deceased Soldier's Effects
Post at Gordonsville, Virginia
Office P.O.M., July; 13, 1864

Received from Surgeon B. M. Lebby in charge of General Hospital, C. S.A., Gordonsville, Va., the following articles, being the effects of
Private G. Woodard
Co. A 55th Regt. N. C. Troops, who died at said Hospital, March 23d, 1864.

| Articles | No. | Appraised Value |
|---|---|---|
| Coats. | 1 | 7.00 |
| Drawers. | 1 | 1.00 |
| Hats. | 1 | 4.00 |
| Prs. | | |
| Shoes. | 1 | 8.00 |
| Socks. | 1 | .75 |
| Haversacks. | 1 | .50 |
| Pants | 1 | 3.00 |
| Total | | $22.25 |

W. B. Richards, Jr.
Major & Post O. M.

Respectfully forwarded.

B. M. LEBBY

Surg. In Charge Gen. Hospital, Gordonsville, Va.


***(Sarah Ellen Peele Obituary, continued from page 97)***


fatal morning.

She was with her father and brother in the field (because she liked to be with them). Then she was sent to another part of the field after their (her father and brother's) coats which was about a hundred yards away. On her way back she noticed a ditch bank full of brushes, and she thought she would burn it and save her papa the trouble, so she found a match in a pocket of the coat and set fire to the straw, which caught her clothing and before her father and brother could reach her she was in a light blaze. From her waist down was almost cooked, while her sufferings must have been intense, she was patient, never murmuring nor complaining. Sometimes she would scream and beg her nurse to kill her. Then again you might ask her if she was in pain and she would say, "no, I am better."

She only lived thirteen days in her sufferings when death came to her relief on the 24th of April, 1901. [sic.]

When death struck her she asked her father and the nurse to go with her, and told them that she was happy, and was going home.

Father, mother, brother and sister what a blessed thought "going home" is. Have you thought how much is conveyed in those two words? Jesus, you know, said to His disciples that He was going to prepare a home for them. Won't you from this day so live that you, too, can go to that home?

God "moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." He is calling, tenderly calling, come home, come home.

And mother do not weep for your darling any more, for she has gone to meet her little brother on the other shore.

Aunt Bettie
Smithfield Herald please copy

## JOHN EATMAN TO JOHN ROBERT EATMAN DEED
### Contributed by Deans Eatman

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting: know ye that I John Eatman of the County of Nash and State of North Carolina for the material love and affection, and divers other good causes hereunto moving which I bear unto my Grandson John Robert Eatman, have given, granted and by these presents do freely give and grant unto him the said John Robert Eatman, the following property that is to say three tracts of Land containing in the whole three hundred and fifty Acres and all ajoining; the first tract containing one hundred and fifty Acres and bounded as follows; beginning at a pine Benjamin Bunns corner at the mouth of the Horseshoe Marsh and runs along the said Bunns line South upstream degrees west one hundred and twenty poles to a corner black Oak, thence along Benjamin Flowers line one hundred poles to a white oak thence north one hundred and fifty poles to a pine on the Juniper swamp then down the meanders of the said swamp to the beginning; also the fifty Acres Bounded as follows, beginning at at a white Oak on the swamp in my own line and runs along my own line north to a black oak thence west to a hickory agreed on, thence by a line of marked trees to a pine on the Millstone swamp thence down the _____ _____ of said swamp to the Beginning; as pr. Deed from West Crumpler to myself bearing date the fourth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety; the second tract bounded as follows; beginning at West Crumplers corner a pine on the Juniper swamp and a little below the mouth of the _____ _____ and runs along Crumplers line South twenty eight poles to his corner pine, thence along his other line to and along George Greens line west to a corner pine agreed on between myself and Allen Finch in Green line, thence by a line of marked trees a direct course to a corner White Oak on the north side of the Juniper prong a little above the mouth of the _____ branch also agreed on between myself and said Allen Finch; thence down the meanders of the said Juniper prong to the beginning _____ Hundred and fifty Acres of Land and the second named Tract of one hundred Acres both lying on the south side of the Juniper prong I give unto my son Joel Eatman of the said John Robert Eatman should div as aforesaid and if such and accident should it happen I bind my heirs Executors and Administrators forever to defend the right and title of the aforesaid property unto my son Ruffin Eatman as aforesaid and the right and title of the aforesaid tracts of Land to Joel Eatman to them and their heirs and Assigns forever against the lawful claim or claims of all or any person or persons whatsoever; In _____ whereof I the said John Eatman have hereunto set my hand and Seal this twenty ninth day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and twenty three Signed sealed and acknowledged

John (his mark) Eatman

in the presence of us
H. Harrison
James W. Strickland
State of North Carolina Nash County Court.
February _____ 1824 The Foregoing Deed of Gift from John Eatman to John Robert Eatman for _____ ordered to be Recorded. _____ _____ Blount _____

[Editor's note: This deed was posted to our egroup by Mr. Eatman. He attached this request and following it is one response that was posted.

"I have recently transcribed a deed from John Eatman to his grandson, John Robert Eatman. The deed only lists names of swamps and other people's land that bordered this land. I have no idea where this land was so if you can help, please let me know. The blanks are spots where I could not read what it said."

"Three things in the description I recognize. Juniper Swamp, West Crumpler and Nash Co.

"Juniper Swamp rises in Johnston Co. and crosses into Wayne Co. where Wilson, Johnston and Wayne counties meet. From said point, it flows ESE into Great Swamp.

"West Crumpler is one of my ancestors. He had a son that lived near Lucama and another that lived near Belfast. So one north of the Juniper and one south thereof.

"Nash Co. seems a little far north to meet this criteria. Al Bass"

Ruffin Eatman made his will September 22, 1826, and it was proven in Nash County November Court 1826. He made bequests to his wife Aggatha, children Ginsey, Nancy Mariah, Martha, Henry, Elizabeth Jane, and John. He named his father John Eatman and requested that "property transferred between us to remain with us."

Agatha had remarried to Henry Wilhite before she petitioned for her dower in Nash County November Term 1829. The petition named Ruffin's six children as Jincey, John, Nancy, Martha, Henry, and Betsey, all infants.

In the Nash County 1851 August Term, German Eatman and Alexander Eatman and wife Martha Eatman petitioned for the division of the dower land of Agatha Eatman, widow of Ruffin Eatman. Said German Eatman had purchased the share of Jincey Eatman, wife of Willie Eatman. The other children were John R. Eatman, Nancy M. Edmonds, wife of Charles W. Edmonds; Henry H. Eatman, and Elizabeth Jane Cockroof, wife of John L. Cockroof.

Joel Eatman died intestate in January 1852. His children and heirs were Alexander, Amos, and Peter Eatman, Elizabeth Eatman, wife of John Eatman; Sally Eatman, Piety Pearson, wife of Barney B. Pearson, Anna "Amy" Williams, decs'd , wife of Joseph Williams, leaving Sally H. and Wesley Williams, both infants.]

Sources: *The Wills of Nash County, North Carolina, Vol. I, 1777-1848,* abstracted by Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr.; *Abstracts of Early Records of Nash County, North Carolina, 1777-1859,* abstracted by Joseph W. Watson

## GEORGE WASHINGTON STANTON CLAIM

### Contributed by Will Graves

Transcript of Claim No. 10296 filed by George Washington Stanton of Stantonsburg, Wilson County, North Carolina with the Southern Claims Commission [NARA M1407, Roll 021] dated 1871-12-15.

George Washington Stanton (April 30, 1835-October 11, 1894), a life-long resident of Stantonsburg, NC, filed a claim seeking reimbursement for a mule he valued at $250.00, taken by troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in April 1865. Below is a transcript of the body of his claim with the supporting depositions of witnesses in support of his claim. This claim and the accompanying depositions give interesting insights into the tensions between Unionists and Secessionists in Wilson County during the American Civil War.

[NOTE: In order to make claims under the Southern Claims Act of March 3, 1871, claimants needed to respond to the 43 standard interrogatories. The Arabic numerals appearing in the transcription set forth below correspond to the answers to the required interrogatories. In those instances in which the interrogatory being answered is not obvious from the statement made by the claimant, the question has been inserted in the text in brackets and appears in italics.]

George W. Stanton being sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, deposes and says: (1) My name is George W. Stanton, I am 39 years of age, my residence is at Stantonsburg, Wilson County, N. C., where I was born and have always resided and my occupation – a farmer. (3, 4) (5) With the cause of the United States all the time. (6) Never did or said anything against the Union. (7) *[Question: Were you at all times during the war willing and ready to do whatever you could in aid of the Union cause?]* I was. (8) I never, during the war, had an opportunity of doing anything; but as far as I dared, and whenever I dared I always spoke in favor of the Union. (9) *[Had you any relatives in the Union Army or Navy?]* None that I am aware of. (10) [Were you in the service or employment of the United States Government at any time during the war?] No. (11) *[Did you ever voluntarily contribute money, property, or services to the Union cause...?]* I had no opportunity of doing so, during the war. (12) *[Which side did you take while the insurgent States were seceding from the Union in 1860 in 1861, and what do you do to show on which side you stood?]* With the majority of my State (!) I opposed secession and like many of them, I stood for the Union all the time. (13) I adhered to the Union. (14) As I never favored rebellion from the first to last, I of course could but not feel sad at any disaster to the Union Cause; and I fervently rejoiced at the capture of N. Orleans, the fall of Vicksburg, and the final surrender: Indeed it was, remarked to me, on the occasion of the surrender that "I looked happy." (15) *[What favors, privileges or protections were ever granted you in recognition of your loyalty during the war, and when and by whom granted?]* At close of the rebellion I was appointed First Lieutenant of the Wilson County police, but I cannot now recalled the name of the officer commanding who issued the appointment. The order to organize the Special police came from Goldsboro, the General's quarters, in Wayne County; and if I had not been recommended to him as a true blue Union man I would have got no such appointment, --our duty being to put down marauding parties & collect confederate arms. (16) It strikes me that I took the iron-clad oath and forwarded the same to General Canby when I was elected to the legislature in 1868. (17) *[Who were the leading and best known Unionist of your vicinity during the War? Are any of them called to testify to your loyalty: and if not, why not?]* Messrs. Wily Daniel, Spencer Fountain, John & Stanley & Colonel John Wilkinson. Mr. Stanley has moved off to California; Mr. Fountain lives in an adjoining County but is too inconvenient to be had. John Wilkinson and a colored man, Henry Stanton, are the only witnesses I can now obtain. (18) *[Were you ever threatened with damage or injury to your person, family or property on account of your Union sentiments, or were you actually molested or injured on account of your Union settlements? If so, when, where, by whom, and in what particular way were you injured or threatened with injury?]* Here was a Thomas Marshall, a New Hampshire man, who had been teaching here up to 1861. John T. Barnes of Wilson had threatened to come down and hang Marshall, and that I was no better than Marshall; and a great deal of ill feeling was manifested towards me for assisting Mr. Marshall to get off. He left in 1861 via Tennessee. (19) *[Were you ever are rested by any Confederate officer, soldier, sailor or other person professing to act for the Confederate government, or for any State in rebellion? If so, when, where, by whom, and for what cause; how long you kept under a rest; how did you obtain your release; did you take any oath or give any bond to effect your release; and if so, what was the nature of the oath or the bond?]* Two militia officers came to arrest me on one occasion, and a soldier came on another occasion for the same purpose – their failing to accomplish which, on both occasions, was their finding I had too many friends. (20) *[Was any of your property taken by Confederate officers or soldiers, or by rebel authority? If so, what property, when, where, by whom, were you ever paid therefor, and did you ever present an account therefor to the Confederate government, or any rebel officer?]* The confederates took to the value of $1000 in bacon, corn and fodder all in the space of 10 days just about the close of the war. I never was paid for it – a paymaster then what have been hard to find. (21) *[Was any of your property ever confiscated by rebel authority, on the ground that you were an enemy to the rebel cause?]* No. (22) *[Did you ever do anything for the Confederate cause or render any aid or comfort to the rebellion?]* Never did. (23) *[What force, compulsion, or influence, was used to make you do anything against the Union cause?]* There was no force or compulsion other than submitting to the so-called authorities. (24) *[Were you in any service, business, or in the ointment, for the Confederacy, or for any rebel authority? If so, give the same figures as before required.]* I was in the "Home Guard" but never was on service out of my

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County. (25) *[Were you in the civil, military, or naval service of the Confederacy, or any rebel State, in any capacity whatsoever? If so, state fully in respect to each occasion and service.]* I had been appointed to the magistracy in 1860, and did not resign when the State seceded, as that was considered a bomb-proof to keep out of the war: this, with the Home guard, was all the position I ever was in during the Confederacy. (26) *[Did you ever take any of to the so-called Confederate States while in any rebel service or employment?]* Never. (27, 28, 29) *[questions regarding blockade running and ownership of stores or vessels used by the Confederacy]* No. (30) *[Did you contribute to the raising, equipment or support of troops, or the building of gunboats in aid of the rebellion; or to military hospitals or invalids, or to relief funds or subscriptions for the families of persons serving against the United States?]* I never did. (32, 33) *[Did you ever give information to any person in aid of military or naval operations against the United States? Were you at any time a member of any society organization for equipping volunteers or conscripts, or for aiding the rebellion in any other manner?]* No. (34) *[Did you ever take an oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate States?]* I never did. (35) *[Did you ever receive a pass from rebel authority? If so, state when, where, for what purpose, and what conditions, and how the pass was used.]* On three occasions I obtained from the County Clerk a written passport to go to Richmond; my business on two of these occasions was to bring home the remains of dead soldiers to their poor relatives; and the third time was to bring home a sick soldier who died in three days after his arrival. We had to take know of to obtain these passes. (36) *[Had you any near relatives in the Confederate Army, or in any military or naval service hostile to the United States? If so, give names, ages on entering service, or present residence, if living, what influence you exerted, if any, against their entering the service, and in what way you contributed to their outfit and support.]* My brother, Apollos Stanton volunteered into the Confederate service at eighteen years of age – he had not been living at home – our fraternal relations were such that I could have had no influence in preventing him: -- Another brother, Dallas Stanton was forced in by the conscript law in September 1864. Apollos is dead; Dallas merchandises at Lagrange, Lenoir County N.C. I had three cousins – all now dead, in the Confederate service. I never contributed for outfit or otherwise to any one. (37) *[Have you been under the disabilities imposed by the 14th amendment of the Constitution? Have your disabilities been removed by Congress?]* No. (38) [*Have you been this specially pardoned by the President for participation in the rebellion?]* I never required a pardon. (39-43) *[questions about amnesty, POW status, arrests, confiscation of property by US governmen]* No (44) *[After the Presidential election of 1860, if of age, did you vote for any candidates, or on any questions, during the war, and how did you vote? Did you vote for or against candidates favoring secession? Did you vote for or against the ratification of the ordnance of succession, or for or against separation in your State?]* I voted always against secession, and for men whom I knew or supposed to be friendly to the Union. The ordinance of Secession was never put to the people of this State for ratification; if it had it would have been voted down. (45) *[Did you belong to any vigilance committee, or committee of safety, homeguard, or any other form of organization or combination designed to suppress Union sentiment in your vicinity?]* Only in the Home guard as already stated. (46) *[Were you in the Confederate Army, State militia, or any military or naval organization hostile to the United States?....]* Only as above stated. (47) *[Were you in any way connected with or employed in the Confederate quartermaster, commissary, ordinance, engineer, or medical department, or any other department, or employed in any railroad transporting troops or supplies for the Confederacy, or otherwise engaged in transportation of men and supplies for the Confederacy?]* Never was so connected. (48-50) *[questions asking for details of involvement in transportation, equipping the Confederacy and acting as custodian of persons opposing the Confederacy]* No. (51) *[Were you ever in the Union Army or Navy, or in any service connected there with?]* I never was: and further deponent saith not.

S/ George W. Stanton

Read over in presence of deponent, sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of November 1874.

S/ John Robinson
Spec[l] Commissioner

Depositions of Colonel John Wilkinson as to the loyalty of George W. Stanton.

In answer to the first General Interrogatory deponent says my name is John Wilkinson, my age is 60 years. My occupation is living private, my residence, Stantonsburg, Wilson County. I am not related to this claimant and have no pecuniary interest in his claim. I have known Mr. Stanton from his boyhood. [We live] About 1 ½ miles apart. [We see each other] Almost daily. At this lapse of time it would be impossible for me to mention the "first" conversation. All I can say now is that the impression remains with me – and impression kept alive by his course and conduct throughout the war and since – that he was one of the few Union men in this neighborhood. If he did [say anything against the Union], I never knew it. He had no opportunity of aiding the Union cause only by taking. His reputation in the community was that of a Union man, and he got a great deal of wordy abuse, and got into wrangles, but I never knew of his getting any personal abuse – i.e., being stroke or beaten. I know that old Billy Barnes called "White Oak Billy" used some hard expressions and in my hearing he said that George Stanton was a traitor, and – pointing his finger at me, said "Col., You are no better" -- he said that Stanton should be hanged. Near the close of the war, Col. Wheeler's man seized a lot of cattle belonging to Macon Moy, and the old man was so indignant at the loss of his cattle that he said to me "I'll be damned, Colonel Wilkinson, if you and George Stanton wasn't

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*(George Washington Stanton Claim, continued from page 101)*

right." Moy what's up to that time a strong secessionist. Alvin Bagley, Wily Daniel, Rufus W. Edmondson and even the secessionists Washington Barnes and old Sheriff William Thompson and Wily Simms could testify to the reputation of Mr. Stanton. Wiley Daniel, John Stanly and Alvin Bagley were the only Union men in this immediate neighborhood; and they could testify for the loyalty of Mr. Stanton. John Stanley is, I am told, a Judge in California, (he was nephew to Honorable Ed. Stanly – provisional governor pro tem of N. C.). I was [a Unionist], and was intimately known to be so by this claimant. He knew me to be so by our almost daily intercourse. We were both Freemasons and could talk to each other unreservedly. *[Do you know of any threats, molestations, or injury inflicted upon the claimant, or his family, or his property, on account of his adherence to the Union cause?]* Nothing but what I have stated at ...[above], which see. *[Do you know of any act done or language used by the claimant that would have prevented him from establishing his loyalty to the Confederacy?]* He could have established no such character to be safe [sic, save] his life; his reputation as a Union man was too widely known.

S/ John Wilkinson

Read over in presence of deponent, sworn and subscribed before me this 13th of November 1874.

S/ John Robinson
Specl. Comnr

Depositions of Harry Stanton (colored) in relation to the loyalty of George W. Stanton.

I come to testify to the loyalty of George W. Stanton. I have known him from his birth. I lived with him, excepting the first year, during the war. Yes, in this way – I could say little, but when I heard Mr. Stanton talked it was that he was against it-- that he never meant to go into it, and he never did go into it. We colored folks had not much mainland with white folks to hear what they had to say; but I always could hear Mr. Stanton stand up for the "old government." Only what I have stated. I heard him tell men who came up after hogs that he never would go. I never did [hear Mr. Stanton say anything against the Union]. I had only heard him talk in favor of the Union. I heard Dr. Ward say that Mr. Stanton held himself as a Union man, but that he was as much after his black ones as he (Ward) was for his'n [sic, his own]. What I could hear from white folks was that Mr. Stanton "had pulled his self away from them," and I know that all we black folks felt proud of him because he would not go into the war. Alvin Bagley, Amos Owens, and Col. Wilkinson – Rufus W. Edmondson was, for while, looked upon as a Union man, but he gave up afore the war ended. *[Were you, yourself, an adherent of the Union cause during the war?]* Of coarse I was, -- that I was "from the jump!" *[Do you know of any threats, molestations, or injury inflicted upon the claimant, or his family, or his property, on account of his adherents to the union cause?]* I heard Joshua Walston and Bill Burrows threaten that he would be arrested. I heard Mrs. Barnes say that her son was killed for the honor of his country and that if she was a young girl she would not marry George Stanton to save his life. Mrs. George Stanton was left by herself by the other ladies of her neighborhood on account of her husband. *[Do you know of any act done or language used by the claimant that would have prevented him from establishing his loyalty to the Confederacy?]* I do not know how to answer that question, & further deponent saith not.

S/ Harry Stanton, X his mark

read over in presence of deponent, sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th November 1874.

S/ John Robinson
Specl. Commissioner

Depositions of Harry Stanton in relation to Mr. Stanton's loss of property.

In answer to the First General Interrogatory, deponent says, My name is Harry Stanton my age is 48 years, my occupation is farming and my residence is in Greene County, and my P O address is Stantonsburg, Wilson County N. C. I, being a colored man, am not related to claimant, and have no interest in his claim.

I was ploughing in the field with Mr. Stanton's mule when they took him. Fifteen or twenty Union soldiers rode up to the field, and one came riding up to me in the field, and said Howdy Uncle Sam, I told him howdy. He asked me was that a good mule. I told him he was good but old – I thought I could get him to leave him, as he was all we had got. He ordered me to take him out. I took him out, and he made me lead him down to the gate where the crowd was. He put a little colored boy on the mule, and the mule throwed him three times but they kept throwing him on, but they made the boy ride him down to Kinston. The boy came back and told me that they sent or gave him liberty to come back – that he was a free man. Mrs. Stanton called me to bring the mule to the house, but the soldiers would not let me, so that he carried him off. That mule was the only "work creeter [sic,critter]" Mr. Stanton had at the time; and that is all I know about the taking of the mule, and further deponent saith not.

S/ Harry Stanton, X his mark

Read over in presence of deponent, sworn and subscribed before me the 13th of November 1874

S/ John Robinson
Special Commissioner

Depositions of Alfred Stanton (colored) in relation to the taking of the property of George W. Stanton.

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# WARREN TOMLINSON WILL

## Wilson County, November 24, 1889

**Contributed by Betty Jay Daniel**

North Carolina
Wilson County

I Warren Tomlinson of the county of Wilson and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory do make and declare this to be my last Will and testament in manner and form following, That is to say:

That my Executor hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends, pay all my funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing out of the first moneys that shall come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item 1st I give devise and bequeath to my son in law Wiley Mercer and his heirs in trust for the use and benefit of Martha Worrell daughter of my wife before our marriage the tract of land on which I live adjoining the lands of Green Poole and wife Jonathan Tomlinson and others containing one hundred and seventy one & ¾ acres more or less and to rent out said land and collect the rent for the same, and to pay over to her the said Martha Worrell annually a sufficient amount of said rents and incomes of said land to support and clothe her comfortably and decently during her natural life, Provided she does not marry James Sa___, and after her death if she shall never marry, or in the event she does marry said James Sa___ then the said Wiley Mercer and his heirs are hereby directed and required to convey the said tract of land and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto ___, to John Mercer and Garry Mercer sons of Wiley Mercer and Elizabeth Mercer and their heirs and assigns in fee simple forever,

Item 2, I give devise and bequeath to all the children of Wiley Mercer and wife Elizabeth Mercer except John Mercer and Garry Mercer all the balance of my estate to be equally divided between them share and share alike to them and their heirs in fee simple forever,

And lastly I do hereby Constitute and appoint my son in law Wiley Mercer Executor of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all Wills and testaments heretofore made by me,

Witness my hand and seal this the 24th day of November A D 1889

Witnesses
B H Bardin
L. D. Tomlinson

Warren his X mark Tomlinson

[Editor's note: Warren Tomlinson, son of John and Eleanor Tomlinson, married Charity Worrell, daughter of John and Mary Worrell. Their sons Garry and John moved to Arkansas. Their daughter Elizabeth married Wilie Mercer, son of John and Esther Pitt Mercer, on January 17, 1867. Martha married James W. Mercer September 18, 1898, at Wiley Mercer's.]

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*(**George Washington Stanton Claim,** continued from page 102)*

In answer to the First General Interrogatory deponent Says, My name is Alfred Stanton my age is 21 years, occupation is a carpenter, my residence is in Wilson County NC. I am not related to claimant and have no interest in his claim. I was not present when they took the mule out of the plow but I met them on the road and Uncle Harry was leading the mule. The Soldiers ordered me to get on the mule. I was afraid of the mule, but the [sic, they] bade me get up. I had to carry the mule to Kinston, Lenoir County NC. The soldiers there took him from my and put him in a lot. There were other horses and mules in the lot. I saw the mule there next morning. The mule was taken by United States Soldiers. I know they were called Yankee Soldiers. They had blue clothes. I left Kinston next morning and came home. I did not see the mule after this. This is all the boy remembered about it – he was then only 12 years of age, and took no notice of what he heard the soldiers say, and further deponent saith not.

S/ Alfred Stanton, X his mark

Read over in the presence of deponent, sworn and subscribed to before me this 13th of November 1874

S/ John Robinson
Special Commissioner

I have known Mr. Stanton for the last 25 years, but had no opportunity of seeing him during the war, living, as we were, some 20 miles apart; but all I can learn of him is unquestionably satisfactory as to his loyalty.

Since the close of the war Mr. Stanton has acted both energetically and efficiently in cooperation with the government. Ex-Governor W. W. Holden, Governor Brogden and all the Union men in this vicinity speak highly of Mr. Stanton as a loyal man all thro'out the war.

I have long been acquainted with John Wilkinson, a witness for Mr. Stanton's loyalty; and if I can rely on my recollection, it is that, during the war I had heard of Mr. Wilkinson's being a loyal and anti-war man; and both he and Mr. Stanton have been subjects of obloquy in their neighborhood on account of their Unionism, but at present, there are none more respected in their neighborhood – a mark of the Subsidence of secesh [sic]-feelings.

S/ John Robinson
Special Commissioner

## WILLIAM BRIDGERS
### Hugh B. Johnston

William Bridgers, son of Briton Bridgers and wife Mary Rice, was born in 1778 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and died there in the last of 1820. About 1799 he married Mary Barnes, daughter of James and Julian Barnes. She shared in the property bequeathed in her father's will dated March 12, 1805,[1] and died in 1825.

In the Edgecombe County Census of 1810, William Bridgers was listed with himself 26-45, one male 10-16, four males under ten, one female under ten, one female 16-26, and seven slaves.[2] On October 23, 1813, William (x) Gardner mortgaged to Moses Baker and William Bridgers, for $701.50 owed by Gardner to John Horn, a tract of 500 acres on Gay's Branch (formerly owned by John Thomas) adjoining Joshua Lee, Thomas Barron, and Martin Thorne; witnessed by John Wilkinson and Dempsey Jenkins.[3] In 1817 Gardner gave Bridgers a deed to 250 acres adjoining Martin Thorne, for a payment of 281 shillings.[4]

On January 3, 1821, a public auction of the personal effects of the late William Bridgers was conducted by Reddick Barnes, and among the purchasers were Jonathan Thomas, Hartwell Williford, and Redmond Curl.[5] In February Court, 1821, his inventory was recorded by Reddick Barnes and included much household and farming equipment, including a waffle iron, safe, blowing horn, sword, riding chair, pit saw, and fifteen barrels and fifteen gallons of brandy.[6] On September 22, 1822, and January 8, 1823, his perishable estate was sold at auction by administrator John Mercer.[7] On February 22, 1823, the account current of the estate was examined at the dwelling house of Mary Bridgers by commissioners consisting of John Mercer, William Wilkins, Hardy Flowers, Joab P. Pitt, and Edwin Bullock: accounts due $1,176.96, sales $85.90 ½ , and $1,529.31, and hire of slaves $375.12½, less debts of $1,230, left a balance of $1,937.20.[8]

On December 31, 1825, Commissioners James Pender, Benjamin Sharp, Thomas Barron, and William Williams divided 1,142 acres of land left by the late William Bridgers; the eleven lots were of varying size and value, but were adjusted by money payments to give each heir the equivalent of $619.09: Lot No. 1, William Bridgers, 63 acres adjoining David Williams, worth $1,000; Lot No. 2, Mary Bridgers, 118¾ acres adjoining David Williams, Town Creek, and Williamson Branch, worth $550; Lot No. 3, Sally Bridgers, 65 acres on Williamson Branch, worth $705; Lot No. 4, Susan Bridgers, 65 acres adjoining Town Creek and No. 3, worth $675; Lot No. 5, James Bridgers, 86¾ acres adjoining the peach orchard, north of Town Creek a little above the Old Fording Place, worth $700; Lot No. 6, Briton Bridgers, 89 acres north of Town Creek near the Old Fording Place and bounded by David Williams (formerly Hardy Flowers) and a pond, worth $555; Lot No. 7, Edwin Bridgers, 97½ acres north of Town Creek near the mouth of Cornfield Branch, William D. Petway, and the mouth of Mill Branch, worth $575; Lot No. 8, John Bridgers, 80 acres adjoining Town Creek near the mouth of Mill Branch, Petway, and White, worth $575; Lot No. 9, Reddick Bridgers, 115 acres adjoining White, Hardy Flowers, and William D. Petway, worth $518; Lot No. 10, Willie Bridgers, 115 acres adjoining Hardy Flowers, Bailey, William White, and the south side of Mill Branch, worth $457; and Lot No. 11, Elizabeth Bridgers, 247 acres (sold by John Horn to William Gardner and then to William Bridgers) adjoining Ely Robbins, Martin Thorn, Thomas Gill near the south side of the road, and Gardner, worth $500.[9]

On January 3, 1826, Joab P. Pitt, Benjamin Sharp, James Pender, and Thomas Barren divided the slaves of William Bridgers into eleven lots worth $313 each: Lot No. 3, John Bridger received Luke, worth $460; Lot No. 9, Brittain Bridger received Jerry, worth $250; and Lot No. 11, James Bridger received Celia, worth $125.[10] On January 3, 1826, the personal property of the late Mary Bridgers was sold by Joab P. Pitt who "cried the sale" for a total of $1,151.89, and most of the purchases were made by James Bridgers, John Bridgers, Briton Bridgers, Elizabeth Bridgers, and Reddick Bridgers.[11] Her inventory was recorded in February Court, 1826, by administrator Reddick Barnes.[12]

On February 26, 1827, Britton Bridgers was appointed guardian of Edwin, William, Sally, Mary, Elizabeth, Susan, and Willie Bridgers of Edgecombe County.[13] On January 3, 1829, David Williams, James Pender, Joab P. Pitt, Thomas Barron, and John Mercer divided the slaves of William Bridgers among the following heirs: No. 1, Reddick Bridgers received Will, worth $325; No. 2, Elizabeth Bridgers received Lewis, worth $350; No. 3, Edwin Bridgers; No. 4, Sally Bridgers; No. 5, Polly Bridgers; No. 6, Willie Bridgers; No. 7, Susan Bridgers; and No. 8, William Bridgers.[14]

On January 3, 1832, Joab P. Pitt, John Mercer, and James Barron allotted two shares worth $340 each from the common stock of slaves left in the William Bridgers estate: (1) Edwin Bridgers, and (2) Theophilus and Sally Atkinson.[15] On January 3, 1835, Joab P. Pitt, Mark Bennett, and John Mercer allotted to Polly Bridgers two slaves worth $525 from the slaves left by the late William Bridgers.[16]

Children of William and Mary (Barnes) Bridgers:

1. Britton Bridgers, 1800-1846, married on March 7, 1827, Pernetta Pitt, daughter of James Pitt and wife Leah Phillips, bonded by John Bridgers. On May 26, 1828, Britton bought 296 aacres on Town Creek. Leah, 1810-December 1851, joined Upper Town Creek Primitive Baptist Church on November 21, 1841. Her dower lands were west of Cornfield Branch. Britton and Pernetta had four children, Ralph, Elizabeth, Sally Ann, and Rebecca.
2. James Bridgers, 1802-April 1850, married January 13, 1825, Millicent "Milly" Freeman, daughter of Josiah and Sarah Freeman. They had eight children: William, born in 1826; Redding, born February 20, 1829; Mary Ann, born in 1831; Thomas Harris, born November 10, 1832; John Freeman, born in 1834; Sally Ann, born in 1836; Joseph, born in 1838; and Edwin C., born in 1842.
3. John Bridgers, March 16, 1803-1890's, married on December 23, 1831, Catherine Pender, daughter of James Pender and wife Sally Routh, bonded by Reddick B. Bridgers. On April 19, 1856, Catherine became a member of Upper Town Creek Primitive Baptist Church. John and Catherine

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*(**William Bridgers**, continued from page 104)*
had twelve children: James William, born October 10, 1832; Mary Ann, born March 24, 1834; Franklin, born August 29, 1835; Sally Routh, born November 8, 1837; Martha Mercer, born May 19, 1839; Willie R., born May 1, 1841; Eveline L., born November 25, 1843; Margaret Pender "May," born October 25, 1845; Catherine R. "Katie," born February 4, 1848; Elizabeth W. "Bettie," born May 31, 1852; John Thomas, born June 16, 1855; and Jesse V., born October 21, 1858.

4. Reddick Barnes Bridgers was born in 1805. On December 27, 1831, he sold William D. Petway for $400 a tract of 115 acres north of Town Creek adjoining John Bridgers and said Petway; witnessed by John P. (x) Pitt.[17] On January 5, 1832, Thomas Thorne sold Reddick B. Bridgers for $400 a tract of 200 acres north of Little Swamp adjoining John W. Barnes and Frederick Robbins; witnessed by John W. (x) Barnes.[18] On July 10, 1833, William Woodard sold Reddick B. Bridgers for $228.09 a tract of 220 acres on Little Swamp adjoining John W. Barnes; witnessed by John W. Barnes and James Tartt.[19] On December 24, 1838, Reddick B. Bridgers of Edgecombe County sold William Batts for $800 a tract of 420 acres on Little Swamp and Thorne's Mill Swamp adjoining Nathan Morris, Frederick Robbins, and David W. Barnes; witnessed by Willie J. Weaver.[20] On August 1, 1841, Reddick B. Bridgers of Noxubee County, Mississippi, appointed William D. Petway his attorney to collect money due from William Barnes, executor of Bryan Barnes; witnessed by Thomas Edmondson.[21] On May 19, 1830, he had married Martha Barnes of Edgecombe County, bonded by John Bridgers.

5. William Reddick Bridgers was born in 1807. On July 18, 1846, he sold John L. Bridgers for $475 a tract of 63 acres (inherited from his father) south of Williamson Branch adjoining Colonel David Williams, Britton Bridgers, and Peter P. Phillips; witnessed by William H. Moye and Joshua Wilkinson.[22]

6. Edwin Bridgers, October 1, 1809-June 10, 1863, married on March 15, 1851, Mary Atkinson, daughter of Aaron and Sally Atkinson. Edwin was a schoolmaster and resided in Edgecombe County. Mary was born November 20, 1820, and died April 27, 1890. They had two children, William Aaron Bridgers, born February 3, 1852, and James Franklin Bridgers, born March 16, 1853.

7. Elizabeth Bridgers, 1811-February 20, 1852, married on March 4, 1829, Joseph John "Jack" Pender, son of Edwin Pender and wife Elizabeth Robbins, bonded by Stephen Robbins. They had two children, Thaddeus William, February 10, 1838-February 10, 1892, and Cadmus C., February 13, 1841-February 22, 1862.

8. Sally Bridgers, born in 1811, married Theophilus Atkinson December 19, 1831, bonded by Aaron Atkinson. They had ten children: Elizabeth S., born 1832; Mary, born 1834; Susan A., born 1836; John, born 1838; Rufus, born 1840; Antoinette, born 1842; Nancy, born 1844; William, born 1846; Rhoda (?), born 1849; and Lucy, born 1849.

9. Mary "Polly" Bridgers was born in 1812. On January 13, 1835, she married Joshua Wilkinson of Edgecombe County. On August 14, 1834, Mary Bridgers sold Theophilus Atkinson for $450 a tract of 118¾ acres north of Town Creek; witnessed by John Bridgers and Joseph Pender.[23]

10. Willie W. Bridgers was born in 1814 and was a carpenter by trade. On January 15, 1847, he enlisted for the War with Mexico under Captain William S. Duggan of the Edgecombe County Regiment, holding the rank of First Corporal, and was mustered out of service on July 28, 1848.[24]

11. Susan Bridgers was born in 1817. On January 19, 1841, she married Geraldus Shirley at the home of Colonel Joab P. Pitt. By a prenuptial agreement of the same date, Shirley guaranteed her the lifetime possession of 60 acres on Town Creek adjoining Peter Philips and Theophilus Atkinson, two slaves, and a bed and the bedclothing; witnessed by Joab P. Pitt and Charles G. Hunter.[25] On February 15, 1848, Susan Shirley of Edgecombe County sold Robert R. Bridgers for $500 the tract of 65 acres (inherited from her father) north of Town Creek adjoining Peter Philips; witnessed by John Wilkinson and Washington Barnes.[26]

End Notes:

1. Edgecombe County, Will Book D, p. 223.
2. Edgecombe County Census of 1810, in the National Archives.
3. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 15, p. 409.
4. Deed Book 17, p. 356.
5. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1820-1825, pp. 396/400.
6. Op. cit., p. 102.
7. Op. cit., pp. 592/594.
8. Op. cit., pp. 394/400.
9. Deed Book 18, p. 387.
10. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1826-1830, p. 15.
11. Op. cit., pp. 226/232.
12. Op. cit., p. 8.
13. Minutes of the Edgecombe County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.
14. Inventories & Accounts of Sales, 1826-1830, p. 361.
15. Inventories, 1830-1836, p. 148.
16. Op. cit., p. 408.
17. Deed Book 20, p. 526.
18. Deed Book 20, p. 242.
19. Deed Book 21, p. 2.
20. Deed Book 22, p. 270.
21. Deed Book 22, p. 649.
22. Deed Book 25, p. 186.
23. Deed Book 21, p. 204.
24. *Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War with Mexico,* (Raleigh, N. C., 1887), p. 21.
25. Deed Book 22, pp. 516 and 588.
26. Deed Book 24, p. 384.

## HENRY RAPER OBITUARY

### *Wilson Times*, November 22, 1917

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

**Mr. Henry Raper Dead.**

Mr. Henry Raper, 58 years old, and a prominent farmer who lives 3 miles from this city, passed away yesterday and will be buried tomorrow in the cemetery in this city. The deceased leaves a wife and several children, one of them being Mr. W. R. Raper, a merchant of this city. The deceased was a staunch member of the Primitive Baptist church and the funeral services will be conducted by Elder George Boswell.

## WILSON COUNTY'S FIRST KNOWN MILITIA COMPANY

### Hugh BucknerJohnston

You may consider it unbelievable, but I have discovered a "Muster Roll of The Edgecombe County Militia" that is to all practical purposes the earliest existing list of "Wilson County Militia," and dating exactly one hundred years prior to the formation of Wilson County. Solomon Alston was its Captain, and under him were serving eleven other officers and fifty-one private soldiers. Captain Alston was probably living in the Town Creek area at that time, but had drifted northwestward to the Franklin or Granville County area before May 13, 1758. I have edited and alphabetized the list for the convenience of the present reader, indicating in a great many instances the exact stream near which the men were then living.

The two Thomases, later distinguished as Baptist preachers, were probably settled already on both sides of Buckhorn Branch which is the present boundary between Wilson and Gardner's Townships. Many of these surnames are still represented in Wilson County. There was no mention of the Farmer family because it did not arrive here until 1761, but one may have expected a Woodard or two because the family had just settled a little west of Stantonsburg (it was even more noticeably absent from Revolutionary War records). Many other old local names like Batts, Dew, Ellis, Peele, Pender, and Williford (to cite a few of them) arrived one by one over a period of thirty to forty years, but mostly prior to the year 1800.

Thomas Amason (spelled Emberson) of lower Tosneot Swamp
Willie Amason ditto
Abraham Baggett, Drummer
James Bagget
Michael Baker of Town Creek
Moses Baker ditto
Moses Baker, Jr. ditto
Peter Barbary of Tosneot
James Barefield of Tosneot
Jeptha Barefoot of Contentnea Creek
Abraham Barnes ditto
Jacob Barnes of White Oak Swamp
Nathan Barnes, Sergeant ditto
William Barnes, Ensign, of Tosneot
James Barron (spelled Jeams Barren) of Tar River
Joshua Bentley, Sergeant, of Tosneot
Peter Beste of Hominy Swamp
John Bradley
Benjamine Brasswell
Benjamine Brasswell, Corporal
Simond Brasswell
John Daniel
Simond Daniel of Tosneot
William Daniel ditto
John Fiveash
Absalom Holleman
John Howell
Adam Ive[y] of Contentnea
Lenard Langston of lower Tosneot
Arthur Lee of Town Creek
Joshua Lee, Corporal, of Hominy Swamp
Joshua Lee of Tyancokey Swamp
Richard Lee of Town Creek
Solomon Lee ditto
Samuel Moore of Tosneot
Abraham Peecock between Tosneot and Contentnea
James Permenter, Lieutenant, of Town Creek
Thomas Proctor
Joseph Pugh (spelled Pue)
Francis Riley (spelled Francess Rille)
Jeremiah Riley
John Robins, Corporal, of Town Creek
John Shingleton of Tosneot
Joseph Sims of Contentnea
Isaac Spivey (spelled Spiva)
Isaac Stevens
John Stevens of Tosneot
John Stephens, Corporal,ditto
William Stickey (i.e., Stuckey) of lower Tosneot
John Story
Joseph Stringfield of the Little Swamp of Town Creek
John Thomas, Corporal, of Tosneot
Jonathan Thomas of Tosneot
Martin Thorne of upper Town Creek
John Underwood of Compass Creek
Ralph Vicars, Sergeant
Thomas Wells
Joseph Whitley (spelled Wheatly)
Francis (spelled Francess) Whitney of White Oak
Mathew Williams of Tosneot
Francis (spelled Francess) Williamson of Tar River
John Williamson.

## WALTER MARION EVERTON JOURNAL

### Contributed by Naomi Everton Christenson

August 6, 1896

Thursday. This was fast day, so we fasted and stayed around Mr. Simpsons. … and stayed with Mr. Simpson over night.

August 7, 1896

Friday. We walked about a mile to Mr. Renfroes where we stopped to rest and while we were there we made an appointment to speak in the evening. We loafed around Mr. Renfroe's until eve when some twenty people came out. …

August 8, 1896

Saturday. … Left Mr. Renfroes early and walked back to the west to Mr. Wilson's where we left an appointment for the evening. We stopped on the road at Mr. Windaman [?], the P. M. of Talbot. … We had dinner with the P. M., after which we went on to Mr. Wilson's, went up to his house, got our clothes, went out in the woods, took a bath, after which we shaved. … Held a meeting at night.

August 9, 1896

We held two meetings, one at eleven o'clock, and one at 4 o'clock. Had between 20 and 30 out to each meeting. … They seemed to like it all right. We stayed with Mr. Wilson all day and had several good conversations with him.

## SEPTEMBER 2007 WCGS MEETING

Sue Powell, president, welcomed our guests and announced that the minutes of the June meeting were printed in Trees. With no corrections made, they were accepted as printed. A brief treasurer's report was given noting that the money market amount included the presales from the book "Founding Families."

Jane Poston and Sue continue to work on the large Barnes family and with that completed, "Founding Families" will be ready for proof reading. There will be two copies used, and a plea was made for help! The more volunteers, the smaller the job and each person will be given a list of things required in the proofing. Members were asked to contact any board member if they are interested.

The 2008 Calendar, to be edited by Wanda Taylor, is being begun. She still needs pictures. They need to be of Wilson County families, and those at old homes or buildings would be of special interest. Older pictures, prior to the 1950s are acceptable.

Laura Newsome has resigned from the board due to other commitments. A replacement for the one remaining year of her term will need to be elected.

Nominations for officers for the coming year are:

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Wanda Taylor |
| Vice-President | Dick Roundtree |
| Secretary | Frances Roberson |
| Treasurer | Sue Powell |
| Board Members | Jerry Stancil, 3 year term |
| | Phil Mooring, 1 year to complete Laura Newsome's term |

The president asked for nominations from the floor. There were none, thus this slate was accepted and is to be voted on in October with the installation to be done at the annual meeting in November.

Doug Rader will speak on the "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void" at the October meeting.

Sue's announcements included comments on the book by Keith Barnes, *The World's Greatest Tobacco Market"* which has arrived at the Daily Times. Keith spoke to us earlier this year and made a great presentation of his many pictures available for use in the publication.

The BB&T/Historical Association/Barton College Lecture Series---"Restoring Madison's Montpelier," by Mark R. Wenger will be in Hardy Hall on October 16th at 7:00 pm.

A book signing and reception with Dr. William S. Powell and his book *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* will be November 15th from 5:30-7:00 in Hackney Library at Barton College.

With the conclusion of business and announcements, Sue introduced Ray King, a Wake County teacher of history and a genealogical researcher, who spoke on "Early Virginia Land Records." We were reminded of his prior visit when he spoke on "Researching Burned Counties."

Ray, a most interesting and knowledgeable speaker, talked about land grants, patents, metes, bounds, surveys, and the importance of land grants to genealogists. He talked about Jamestown and its true beginnings. The first settlers came to Virginia to make money and did not plan to become permanent residents. They were mostly businessmen who got money from family and friends. They were unaccustomed to the conditions they encountered here and faced many hardships including starvation.

As more came to this new world, many among them were indentured servants. Women were gradually brought; life began to improve, and they were no longer under the king's rule.

Our ancestors began to move south of the James River where the land was cheaper.

Jamestown burned four times. In 1699 it was abandoned and everything was moved to Williamsburg.

Ray explained the land grants and patents and how voting and juror lists were tied to the ownership of land. A house had to be built, and proof had to be given on the seeding and planting required for each grant. Patents were issued after the 1620s. He talked about indentured servants, how their passage was paid to come to this country, and how they were identified.

The importance of these records in searching for our ancestors was explained.

The time passed all too quickly as we listened to Ray who makes history so very interesting and inspires us all to start anew in our searching.

Sue and the group thanked Ray, and we adjourned for an enjoyable time of visiting.

Frances Roberson

## SEPTEMBER 2007 BOARD MEETING

The WCGS board met briefly prior to the scheduled September WCGS group meeting on Tuesday September 25th at the Wilson County Library.

There were two items of discussion: proof reading for the forth coming book and the 2008 calendar.

The Founding Families book will have about 480 pages plus the index, and there have been offers from members who live out of town to help with the proofing. There will be two copies printed for this purpose, thus the board decided to divide the book into small sections and to permit some of it to be mailed with a few stipulations to be met in those mailings.

The 2008 calendar will be edited by Wanda Taylor and will be done in black and white. There will be only fifty extras printed this year.

Frances Roberson

## NEW BOOKS AT WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Cemetery Survey of Pitt County, Book One and Two*, Bill Kittrell

## ACCESS TO GRAVES

**www.wral.com**

The [North Carolina] state Court of Appeals ruled July 17, 2007, that people can go onto private property to visit family gravesites.

... In its ruling, the state Court of Appeals said state law allows people to visit gravesites for restoring, maintaining and visiting, even if they're on private property.

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 802
Wilson, NC 27894
**252-243-1660**
**www.wcgs.org**

**Bridgers, Eatman, Peele, Raper, Stanton, Tomlinson, Woodard**

**October 2007**

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**See President's message**

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**Books**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ They Moved Away - North Carolinians Who Went to Other States | $15.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1860. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1870. | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Census of 1900. | $40.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume II | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume III | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume IV | $30.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Architectural Heritage | $20.00 |
| ___ Wilson County's Founding Families (prepublication) (tax included) **NEW** | $35 .00 |

**Maps**

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Wilson County Historical Map | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #1 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #2 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #3 | $5.00 |
| ___ Confederate Field Map #4 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1872 | $5.00 |
| ___ Town of Wilson, Map 1882 | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson County Waterways | $5.00 |

**Miscellaneous** (tax and shipping included on these items only)

| | |
|---|---|
| ___ Cemetery Finder (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ Wilson Co. Estates Inventory (paper) donation | $5.00 |
| ___ 2002 WCGS Calendar (Rock Ridge area) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2003 WCGS Calendar (Gardners Township) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2005 WCGS Calendar (Elm City) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2006 WCGS Calendar (Black Creek) | $5.00 |
| ___ 2007 WCGS Calendar (Lucama) | $11.00 |

**Payment and shipping**: Shipping cost for each book is $4.00. Shipping cost for maps is $4.00 for 1-4 items.
Add 6.75% sales tax for NC residents on merchandise total (not on shipping).
Total of items ordered $_____ Shipping $_____ Sales Tax $_____ Total of Order $_____

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☐ Please enroll me as a member of WCGS. **I enclose $20 for personal membership & subscription to *Trees***. Please allow 3-5 weeks for shipping on all orders. **You may order books & membership through our website. http://www.wcgs.org.**

# TREES OF WILSON

*Wilson's Family Heritage*

Chronicles of the
Wilson County Genealogical Society

November 2007 Volume 16 Number 10


## President's Message

As my term as president ends, I want to express my appreciation to the WCGS members and board for their support, assistance and encouragement. A special thank you also goes to Wanda Taylor for preparing the 2008 Calendar, Carol Forbes for serving as our Communications Coordinator, Dick Rountree for handling the publications mailing, and the members who have helped with the preparation and proofreading of *Founding Families of Wilson County.*

We have seen lots of excitement this year as we have learned from our speakers and each other when we shared our research. 2008 will provide additional learning and sharing opportunities. We hope that you will be able to participate.

At long last the index for the 2006 issues of *Trees of Wilson* has been completed and mailed to you along with the 2008 calendar. *Founding Families* is being proofread prior to preparation of the index.

**Don't forget that we have an inventory reduction sale through the end of 2007 on three of our books and previous years' calendars:**

*Wilson County 1870 Federal Census* $25

*Wilson County Cemeteries, Vol. III* $25

*They Moved Away* $10

We have also reduced to $2 each of the earlier issues of the calendar in the existing inventory.

All of our other books and products are also available at their regular prices.

Having the books in your home makes your research easier. You can learn more about your ancestor by studying the neighborhood and the special schedules in the census records. You can also learn from the cemetery records. If they were buried together, they must have had a relationship.

With the coming of the new year, it is time to renew your membership. If you have not already done so, please send along your dues to keep your membership active and *Trees of Wilson* going your way.

Now is a good time to join or renew, add to your library, or purchase a gift book or membership.

## NOVEMBER 27TH MEETING

### Wilson County Public Library

### Assembly Room, 7:00 PM

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on November 27th. At this meeting, we will have reports of the activities of the year, installation of officers for 2008, a "Show and Tell" sharing time, and a social period to celebrate the year satisfactorily completed and the new officers.

Bring along a family heirloom or photograph, a historical artifact, the result of your research, or something you have done to preserve your heritage. We will show them and tell the stories that accompany them. The treasures that we have are too special not to be shared. We enjoy seeing others' treasures and get ideas from others' work to preserve their heritage.

We will end the evening with refreshments to kick off the holiday season. Please bring your appetite and something to add to the table.

## Highlights of This Issue


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## WOODARD CONFEDERATE LETTERS

This month we complete the series begun in January of the Woodard family letters written during the years of the Civil War. The letters were transcribed by Hugh B. Johnston, and a bound copy of them is shelved in the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Wilson County Public Library.

Quarter Master's Office
Gordonsville, July 13th 1864

Received this day of Ast. Surg. B. M. Lebby ($12.50) Twelve Dollars and fifty cents (current funds), and one Promisory Note for ($64.00) Sixty-four Dollars, the property of Private G. Woodard, late of Company "A" 55th N. C. Regiment.

W. B. RICHARDS, JR.
Major & Post Q. M.

Near Petersburg. Va.
August 12th, 1864

W. W. Batts, Esqr.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find receipts from the Quartermaster at Gordonsville, Va., for the effects of Geo. W. Woodard, deceased.

I have no news of importance, though I have seen the New York Herald, Washington Chronicle, and Philadelphia Enquirer of the 10th inst., but they contain nothing of importance.

Most of my boys are well and in good spirits, though we have sustained a heavy loss in the Campaign.

I am very Respectfully,
Your Friend and Obedient Servant,

B. F. BRIGGS

[Editor's note: Captain Benjamin Franklin Briggs was Clerk of Wilson County Superior Court prior to his enlistment in Co. A., 55th Regiment.]

## *Trees of Wilson — WCGS*

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Materials of genealogical interest to the members of WCGS are accepted for publication at the discretion of the Editors and should pertain to families with connections in Wilson County and its neighboring and parent counties. WCGS cannot accept any responsibility for the content of contributed materials, including errors and omissions. Please direct any questions to the contributor. Their names and addresses will be provided upon request for worthwhile purposes.

Queries from WCGS members are accepted and posted at WilsonNC@yahoogroups.com

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# ELIZABETH DANIEL FARMER OBITUARY

## *Zion's Landmark*, November 1, 1907

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

ELIZABETH FARMER.

Brother Gold—Please publish the obituary notice of my dear aunt, Elizabeth Farmer. She was born the 5th of October, 1828, and passed away the 2d day of November, 1906, making her stay on earth 78 years, one month and three days. She was the daughter of Jacob and Sallie Daniel, and widow of Joseph Farmer. She had been in feeble health for several months, but not confined to her bed. Her death was a great shock to us all.

I believe she was ready and willing to go when the Lord called her home. … She lived a lonely widow something over 14 years. My parents died before I could remember them, and my uncle and aunt raised me, and I can say of a truth they have been a mother and father to me indeed. I feel they have been better to me than I deserved. I think she had the best disposition I ever saw anyone have. If anything happened she did not like, or anyone did her a wrong, she would pass it off, and not have a lot to say about anything. If she could not say a good word of anyone she would not say anything.

Oh, if I only could live like she did. I feel so lonely and sad. I miss her, oh, so much. She leaves one brother and one sister and several relatives and friends to mourn her departure, but not as those without hope. She joined the church at Contentnea April, 1876, and was baptized by Elder A. J. Moore. She always attended her church meetings when she was able to go. Her funeral was preached by her pastor, Elder G. W. Boswell, after which she was laid to rest beside her husband at their home. …

Written by her niece,

Pollie A. Daniel.

Wilson, N. C.

[Editor's note: The obituary of her husband Joseph Farmer is included on page 116.

Joseph Farmer married Lizzy Daniel on July 13, 1852, at the home of Jacob Daniel in Wayne County. In 1860, they were probably the household #517 in Wilson District, recorded as Josiah Farmer, age 33, farmer, and Elizabeth, age 32.

In 1870, Joseph Farmer, age 42, farmer, and Lizzie, age 42, lived in Oldfields Township. Living with them were Jacob Tomlinson, age 17, farm laborer, and Mary Tomlinson, age 7. Jno. C. Morris, age 21, farm laborer, also lived in the household.

In 1880, Joseph Farmer, age 53, farmer, and his wife Elizabeth, age 52, lived in Oldfields Township. Benja Farmer, age 17, farm laborer, also lived in the household.

Lewis Tomlinson married Polly Daniel on December 23, 1852, at the home of Jacob Daniel. In 1860, L. D. W. Tomlinson, age 28, farmer, and his wife Polly, age 26, lived in Black Creek District. Living with them were Jacob, age 6; Jonathan, age 4; Weltha, age 3; Lany, age 4 months, and Willie Tomlinson, age 22, farm laborer. Lewis D. W. Tomlinson died March 24, 1863. Mary Ann Tomlinson, age 17, married William Daniel, age 26, on January 19, 1879, at the home of Jas. (Jos.?) Farmer.

The cemetery in which Joseph and Elizabeth Daniel Farmer, and W. I. and Pollie Daniel were buried is near the intersection of Wilson Christian and Old Raleigh Road. *Wilson County 1860, 1870 Census* abstracts *and Wilson County Cemeteries, Vol. I,* by Joan L. Howell, *Wilson County 1880 Census* abstract by J. Robert Boykin, and *Wayne County Marriage* Abstracts …, by Frances G. Howell]

# WILL OF WILLIAM FERRELL

**Contributed by Barbara M. Ferrell**

In the Name of God amen I William Ferrel of the County of Wayne and state of North Carolina Being of Sound and perfect mind And Memory thanks Be to God for the same do the 30 Day of Decmber in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and twenty three Make and publish this my Last will and testament in manner and form following viz
Item 1st – I Gave to my Beloved wife Delila Ferrel one Feather Bed and furnature –
Item 2nd – I Gave to My four Daughters Namely Polly Rebeckah Nancy & Elisabeth Ferrel - one feather Bead and furnature Each –
Item 3rd – I then Gave the remainder part of My Estate to My Beloved wife Delila Ferrel during of her natural Life and after the dearth of My sd wife all of My property to be Sold and Equally Divided Between My four daughters above named
4thly and Lastly I do Constitute and appoint my sd wife Delila Ferrel and my son Henry Ferrel as Executers to this my Last will and testament in Witness whereof I have hereunto sit my hand and seal the Day and year above writen

William Ferrel

Wit Ichabod Pearson
Joseph Landers

Wayne County Aug Term 1837

Then was the written will of William Ferrell produced in open court and offered for probate and duly proved by the oath of Ichabud Pearson a subscribing witness thereto & let it be recorded and at the same time Henry Ferrell Excr therein named came into court and Qualified as Excr thereto let letters testamentary issue to said Escr

Jno A Green Clk

# WILL OF NOEL FERRELL

**Contributed by Barbara M. Ferrell**

In the name of God Amen I Noel Ferrell of the State of North Carolina Wilson County being of Sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be God do this the 17th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Sixty nine make and publish this my Last will and testament in maner folowing that is to Say
that I give and bequeath to my beloved Wife All my Land during her natturael Life All So I give and bequeath unto her All of My Property My Stock hous hold & kitchen furniture and Evry thing I perssess durinng her Life After her death I lend to Chrey Ferell one tract of Land on the South Side of black Creek where She now Lives during her Life time or widowhood then I give Said Land to James W Ferralls heirs beginning At A Soft Rock in black creek nerley South to the back Line the privet Line thence west to Josiah Barneses Line thence with his Line to black creek thence down the Said creek to the beginning After my wifes death I give to My Son Enos Ferell one Tract of Land ajoining the Said Cherey Ferell tract beginning At the Soft Rock in black creek thenc down Said creek to Rebecka Lamms Line thence with Said Lamms Line to the back Line thence with the Privett Line to Cherey Ferells Line thence with Said Line to the beginning
I give to my daughter Sarah one chest and one Table
I give unto My Grand Son Jessee J. B Ferell if he Stays with me during my Life I give him Sixty Acers of Land cald the Sasser plase
I give unto Samuel Ferell one pease of Low Land on black creek ajoining the Land he now Lives on After My wifes death
I give to my Son Noel Ferell the Tract of Land where I now Live on the North Side of Black Creek beginning At the creek thence up the branch to Samuel Ferells Line thence Nerley East A marked Line to the Light wood Lake branch thence down Said branch to the Creek thence up the creek to the beginning
I give to My Son Samuel Ferell one loom and my part in the bandy Still
I give Black Smith tooles to My three Sons Noel Samuel and Enos
After My death and My wifes after paying My Just debts All my peraishable property to be Equaly divided Among My Children and hereby and ordain My Loving Wife and My Loving Son Noel Ferell Executors of this My Last will and testament in witness where of I the Said Noell Ferell have to this my Last will and testament Set my hand and Seale the day and year I have writin

his
Noel x Ferell
mark

Signed Sealed published in the presence of us who wer present At time of Signing and Sealing there of

Gideon Hays
her
Nelly + Ferell
mark

## WILLIAM FERRELL'S CLAIM FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION
**Contributed by Barbara M. Ferrell**

**State of North Carolina** **Superior Court of Law**

Wayne County Fall Term of 1832

On this the First day of October 1832 personally appeared before the honorable J. J. Daniel Judge of the Superior Court of Law and Equity of the County of Wayne William Farrel of Wayne County and State of North Carolina aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1775 in the month of May with Captain Harison and served in the third regement of the North Carolina line under the following named officers.

That he was enlisted by Captain Harison at Kinston North Carolina for the term of nine months and by him was marched to Halifax where he was placed under the command of Captain G. Bradley of the Continental Line and by him marched to Petersburg Virginia from thence to Philadelphia – from Philadelphia to West Point on North river where he remained for five or ten months and assisted in making a fortification. While at West Point he was sent under the command of Major Hogg to Kings Ferry on North river where he was in the engage mut that took place with the british—That he then returned to West point and by Col. Hogan he was marched back to Philadelphia – There placed under Lieutenant Col. Mebane and marched to Halifax, North Carolina. The term of nine months having insured he was by Col. Mebane regularly discharged which discharge he is unable to account for – that Lieutenant Yarborough commanded was the regiment in which he belonged.

He hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or ann__ except the present and declare that my name is not on other pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

William Ferrell

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states

J. J. Daniel JSL

I Nicholson Washington clerk of the superior court of law and Equity do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of William Farrell for a Pension
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 2nd day of October 1832

N Washington Clk

The Amended Declaration of William Farrell

On this the first day of October 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable Thomas Little Judge of the Superior court of law and equity for the county of Wayne William Ferrell in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7th 1832.

This declarant states that about the tenth day of May 1775 he enlisted in the army of the United States under Captain Harrison at Kinston – that immediately he was marched to Halifax and from thence under Captain G Bradly of the Continental line to Petersburg from thence to Phildelphia from thence to West Point on North river when he arrived about the first day of August 1775 and there at West Point remained until the first day of February 1776
That from west Point he was marched by Col. Hogan to Philadelphia then by Lieutenant Col Mebane to Halifax where he was discharged by said Mebane on the first day of May 1776.
This Declarant further states that there is no Clergyman living in his neighborhood –neither has there be for the last fifteen or sixteen months – That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his service – that he is acquainted with Samuel Watson & Lazamus Cook who live in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and their believ as to his service and as to his age.

1. When and in what year were you born. Answer In the year 1755
2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it
   I have no record of my age.
3. Where were you living when called into service. Where have yo lived since the revolutionary war and where do you

*(Continued on page 113)*

*(William Ferrell Claim, continued from page 112)*

now live.

I was living in Wayne County then called Dobbs when called into service. Since that time I have lived in Wayne and now live in Wayne.

4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute – And if substitute for whom.

I enlisted

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served – such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Col. Hogan, Mebane, Captain Bradly and Harrison and Lieutenant Yarborough & I have no recollection of the militia regiments – The circumstances of my service I refer you to my declaration

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it give and what has become of it.

I received a discharge from Col. Mebane but not know what has become of it

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution.

I am known to Samuel Watson & Lazanus Cook who live in my present neighborhood who can testify as to my character for truth and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid

Willaim Ferrell

We Samuel Watson & Lazanus Cook residing in the county of Wayne hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Ferrell who has subscribed and sworn to the above amended declaration that we believe him to be 75 years of age – that he is respected and believed in the neighbourhood and where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Lazanus Cook
his
Samuel + Watson
mark

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a soldier of the revolution and served as he states – that Samuel Watson, Lazanus Cook are residents of the county of Wayne – that they are credeble persons and that their statement is entitled to credit.

Thos. Little JSCL&E

I Nicholas Washington clerk of the Superior Court of Wayne county do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the amended proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of William Ferell for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this the 1st day of October 1833.

N. Washington Clk

William Ferrell was born in 1755 in what was then Johnston County. It became Dobbs County in 1758 and Wayne County in 1779. He lived south of Contentnea Creek in the present Cross Roads Township of Wilson County.

Another researcher has stated that it was more likely that William Ferrell enlisted in Revolutionary service on May 10, 1778. He was successful in his request for a pension and was granted $30 per year until his death in 1837 receiving $90 total.

William deeded 150 acres to his son Henry on November 30, 1805, and sons Noel, 100 acres, and John, 150 acres, both on December 30, 1823.

William and his wife Delila had seven children:

1. Henry Ferrell, born about 1783, died after 1860, married Zelliah, and they had seven children: Jonus, Joseph, Jethro, Sarah Pricilla, Abigail, Harris, and Bathsheba. In 1834, Henry sold land to John Ferrell and in 1839, he sold land to Noel Ferrell. Henry, Zelliah, and the five youngest children moved to Alabama; however, Henry had returned to Wilson County by 1860.
2. Nancy Ferrell, born about 1787
3. Noel Ferrell, born about 1793, died 1871, married Obedience, and they had seven children: Sarah, Elias, Samuel M., James W., Enos, Piety, and Noel, Jr.
4. John Ferrell, born about 1797, died after March 13, 1862, married Obedience Watson, daughter of Ephraim Watson and his wife Nannie Sasser. They had five children: Delila, Oliver, Gabriel, Ephraim, and Dorothea.
5. Rebecca Ferrell, born about 1801
6. Mary Polly Ferrell, born about 1805, married Joel Rose on November 29, 1851, in Wayne County, died after 1875.
7. Elizabeth Ferrell, born about 1806, died August 22, 1880, in Wilson County, leaving a will.

## COLONEL HENRY JOHN GRAY RUFFIN

### Hugh Buckner Johnston

Colonel Henry John Gray Ruffin, a son of Etheldred Ruffin (died in 1818) and wife Mary Haywood of Edgecombe County, was born there on May 9, 1782. He was destined to become a distinguished planter, lawyer, and political figure. In May of 1813 he married Mary "Polly" Tartt, daughter of Elnathan Tartt and wife Obedience Thomas of wealthy and prominent families of what is now Gardner's Township in Wilson County. She was born there on April 27, 1791, and died near Louisburg at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 1879. She was an Episcopalian and had a number of children including the remarkable Colonel Samuel Ruffin and the late Thomas Ruffin who died in the Confederate service and "for several years before the war represented this District in Congress," according to *The Wilson Advance.*[1]

After leaving the University of North Carolina in 1803,[2] Henry Ruffin settled in Greene County which he represented in the North Carolina House of Commons November 16-December 18, 1807; November 21-December 23, 1808; and November 20-December 23, 1809.[3] He also held the rank of Colonel in the North Carolina Militia from 1812 through 1817. On January 7, 1817, Enos Tartt sold Henry J. Ruffin of Greene County for $6,000 a tract of 750 acres south of the main run of Tosnott Swamp, from the mouth of the Big Branch (former line of the Walton heirs but now John Coleman's), the old Patent line, Henry Parish (formerly Moore's line), Stanton (the former Elnathan Tartt heirs), and Enos Tartt; witnessed by James Tartt and Elnathan Tartt.[4]

On March 17, 1817, Enos Tartt sold Ruffin for $160 a second tract in Edgecombe County consisting of 20 acres bought from Henry Doudna and lying south of Tosnott Swamp adjoining Stanton, Ruffin, and "the road which leads from Godwin's Bridge to Peacock's Bridge on Contentnea;" witnessed by James Tartt and Blake Little.[5] Colonel Ruffin was listed in the Greene County Census of 1820 with two sons and one daughter. He had moved to Franklin County shortly before August 23, 1821, when he sold Blake Little and Elijah Price of Edgecombe County for $304 Lot No. 9 "within the Town of Stantonsburg commonly called the Bell & Joyner Lot," which he had bought two days earlier from the Trustees of Willie J. Stanton; witnessed by Benjamin Miller.[6]

On December 18, 1821, Henry J. G. Ruffin concluded a deal with Green Hill by paying him $8,000 for a plantation of 800 acres in Franklin County bounded by Parker's Branch, Fenner, Little Creek, and Tar River; witnessed by Willie Brownrigg, David Daniel, Joel King, and Samuel Johnson.[7] On February 8, 1823, Richard Fenner sold him for $140 an additional 35 acres adjoining said Ruffin, Parker's Branch, and the south side of Tar River; witnessed by John Cook and Henry Y. Houze.[8] The two-story house built on the main plantation about 1815 was still standing vacant but in fair outside condition in 1983, in the immediate rear of a beautiful two-story residence of more recent construction some two miles west of Louisburg and occupied today by the present owners of the old plantation.

On November 29, 1826, Thomas E. Tartt of Franklin County, Alabama, gave a power of attorney to Henry J. G. Ruffin of Franklin County, North Carolina, to sell 855 acres being "all that tract of land whereon Obedience Brownrigg now lives" adjoining James Tartt and Reddick Barnes in Edgecombe County; witnessed by Moses Hall.[9] On November 12, 1827, said Ruffin sold to Archelaus Barnes for $2,500 this plantation north of White Oak Swamp [in the present Wilson County], beginning "where the lower Bridge on said Swamp Crosses it," upward to the mouth of Barnes's Mill Branch and up it to the late Enos Tartt line and along it "to where it intersects the main Road leading from said White Oak Bridge to Godwin's Bridge on Tossnot," and along the main road back to the bridge; but Barnes was not to interfere with Dr. Willie Brownrigg's current "crop of cotton, corn, ¢c.," of the land S.W. of Godwin's Branch now being cultivated as part of her lifetime dower by Mrs. Brownrigg; witnessed by Benjamin Miller and William Little.[10]

On October 5, 1830, Henry J. G. Ruffin of Franklin County sold to Duncan Hargrove of Edgecombe County for $300 a tract of 150 acres south of Cokey Road west of Tarboro and adjoining Weeks Parker, said Ruffin, Hargrove, Second Branch, and Joshua Bullock; witnessed by G. W. Killebrew and Caswell Horne.[11] On March 16, 1832, Ruffin sold to the celebrated Amos J. Battle of Edgecombe County for $30 six acres adjoining Weeks Parker, Duncan Hargrove, Cokey Road, Theophilus Parker, and said Ruffin; witnessed by Weeks Parker and Elijah Williford.[12] On November 30, 1833, he sold to George Washington Killebrew of Edgecombe County for $1,500 a tract of 385 acres north of Tyancokey Swamp adjoining Nathaniel Bilbry and the new road; witnessed by Churchwell Killibrew and David D. Dillard.[13]

In the meanwhile, Henry J. G. Ruffin had represented Franklin County in the North Carolina House of Commons from November 19, 1827, to January 7, 1828; and in the North Carolina Senate from November 17, 1828, to January 10, 1829. He was also their Delegate to the North Carolina Constitutional Convention held from June 4 to July 11, 1835.[14]

On January 2, 1839, Henry J. G. Ruffin of Franklin County sold to Orren Bullock of Edgecombe County for $6,000 a tract of 1,230 acres south of Tyancokey Swamp at the mouth of the Cabin Branch adjoining Weeks Parker, "a certain little Branch near the new House lately built by Amos J. Battle," the Publick Road, Duncan Hargrove, the land bought by George W. Killibrew from Joshua Bullock, said Bullock, "the other Publick Road," Elijah Moore, and Etheldred Moore; witnessed by Bennett P. Pitt and Lovett Killibrew.[15]

On March 4, 1848, Alexander McKnight sold to Henry J. G. Ruffin of Franklin County for $141 a tract of 47 acres south of Tar River adjoining said Ruffin's "Green Hill Land," Dr. Willie Perry, and Fenner; witnessed by J. K. Thomas and Jordan S. Barrow.[16] On November 10, 1852, Willie and Eliza Jones sold Ruffin for $693 a tract of 154 acres south of Tar River on both sides of Partridge Spring Branch adjoining McKnight, said Ruffin, Fenner, across the Hillsborough Road, Aaron Neal, and D. M. Lewis; witnessed by William O. Green and William F. Green.[17]

Henry John Gray Ruffin signed his will in Franklin County

*(Continued on Page 115)*

on November 16, 1853, and it was probated in March Court.[18] Without going into all its extensive details, we can take note of several items of particular interest: (1) wife Mary, thirty slaves, all personal property, and the home plantation of about 1,000 acres on Little Creek and the Hillsborough Road; (4) daughter Mary H. Williams, a bond worth $10,000; (5) granddaughter Mary Louisa Williams, five shares of stock in the Raleigh & Gaston Rail Road Company; (8) daughter Sarah B. Ruffin, the rest of my land in Franklin County; (9) sons Thomas and Etheldred to divide my land in Greene and Wayne Counties, but Etheldred is to pay $1,000 to George Ruffin; and (10) sons Lamon Ruffin and Dr. George W. Ruffin to have equal shares of the Tossnot Plantation in Edgecombe [i.e., Wilson] County; witnessed by John G. King and Willie Perry.

The lengthy Inventory of the Henry John Gray Ruffin estate was presented in June Court of 1854 by his executor Thomas Ruffin, and it listed among other things 51 slaves in Franklin County, 31 slaves on the "Tossnot Plantation" in Edgecombe County, 50 slaves in Greene and Wayne Counties, and a large quantity of silverware and fine furnishings.[19] In the division of the land, slaves, and personal property, the names and ages of said slaves were recorded, and they were divided into five lots valued at $10,040 each. On September 11, 1854, "I Mary Ruffin having been nominated as Executor by the last will and testament of Henry J. G. Ruffin jointly with Thomas Ruffin, Executor, do hereby renounce my right to qualify as Executrix, and desire my renunciation to be made a matter of record by the Court of Pleas & Quarter sessions of Franklin."[20]

Mary Tartt Ruffin made her own will on September 9, 1869, added Codicils on November 2, 1869, and on November 30, 1872; it was probated in the Franklin County Court of March 27, 1879: (1) daughter Mary H. Fugett, 250 acres on the Hillsboro road [plus a list of personal items]; (2) daughter and executrix Penninah W. Ruffin, the home plantation of about 880 acres and the remainder of my personal property, including a silver tea set; (3) son and executor William H. Ruffin, all bonds and notes [and a long list of personal items]; (4) son and executor Samuel Ruffin, to erect tombstones in the family burying ground and to have his father's sword, two portraits, two family Bibles, and certain itemized personal items; (5) granddaughter Mary Lee Ruffin, a mahogany bedstead; (6) granddaughter Delzell Ruffin, a mahogany bedstead, dressing table, and looking glass; all being witnessed by John G. King and Carter B. Harrison.[21]

Henry John Gray Ruffin himself had departed from life on March 8, 1854, becoming thereby the third of the eleven members of this family who repose today under tombstones in the graveyard a short distance east of their deserted two-story home still standing just south of the old River Road some two miles west of Louisburg.

Children of Henry and Mary (Tartt) Ruffin:

1. Samuel Ruffin was born on June 14, 1814. (To be included in a future issue of *Trees*.)
2. Dr. William Haywood Ruffin, M. D., was born on February 22, 1817. (To be included in a future issue of *Trees*.)
3. Mary Haywood Ruffin was born on December 19, 1818, and died on June 18, 1878. On August 3,1840, she married Samuel Geraldus Williams in Franklin County. Her second husband was a Fugett. Williams was born on December 6, 1817, and died on May 28, 1853.

   Mary Louisa Elizabeth Williams was born on February 13, 1842, and died on June 16, 1854, being buried beside her parents in the old Louisburg Cemetery.
4. Colonel Thomas Ruffin was born on September 9, 1820. (To be included in a future issue of *Trees*.)
5. Dr. George Washington Ruffin, M. D., was born on March 19, 1822, in Franklin County, and died unmarried on June 5, 1862, at Wilson, North Carolina. He received the A. B. Degree from the University of North Carolina in 1842 and was listed in the Wilson County Census of 1860 as a planter worth $30,175. [22] He signed his will on August 9, 1861, describing himself as "of Franklin County" and bequeathing his net estate to his mother Mary Ruffin.[23] W. K. Barham became his executor and found 470 acres in Wilson County, about 58 acres in Franklin County, and twenty-three slaves.
6. Lafayette Ruffin was born in February of 1824 and died in October of 1825.
7. Patrick Henry Ruffin was born on November 13, 1825, and died on November 7, 1850, at Sacramemto City, California. In the summer of 1849, he had gone from Missouri to Sacramento where he had been afflicted off-and-on "with the prevailing disease of the country." On November 4 of the following year, he was suddenly attacked with cholera, in its most malignant form. He survived without pulse for three days" and then died attended "by an assiduous and devoted brother."[24]
8. Sarah "Sallie" Blount Ruffin was born on September 22, 1827, and died unmarried on December 5, 1863, at Philadelphia.
9. Etheldred Francis Ruffin was born on July 22, 1830, in Franklin County and died February 17, 1864, in Greene County. He married Elizabeth Lee "Lizzie" Kennedy, daughter of Colonel William Lee Kennedy and wife Sidney Delzell Crawford. She was born October 13, 1833, in Greene County and died January 28, 1906, in Wilson. On April 26, 1871, she married Dr. Benjamin Thomas Person. Etheldred Ruffin received his A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1851 and settled on the land in Greene County that his father bequeathed to him in 1854. On June 23, 1861, he enlisted as Orderly Sergeant in Company H, 9th North Carolina State Troops (1st North Carolina Cavalry) Regiment, C. S. A. About January 1863, he was promoted to 1st Sergeant. His health had become so bad by February 4, 1864, that he was honorably discharged from Confederate Service at Milford Station, Virginia. He returned home, was treated by Dr. John T. Graves on February 8, and died on the 17th. Etheldred and Lizzie had two daughters, Mary Lee, born June 15, 1857, and Delzell Crawford, born in 1862.
10. Lamon Ruffin was born on June 9, 1832, and died on October 26, 1864, of the smallpox at "the United States Military Prison at Chicago." On July 14, 1862, he had enlisted in Company B, 5th North Carolina Cavalry Battalion. On August 3, 1863, he was transferred to Company K, 65th North Carolina (6th Cavalry) Regiment. He was captured near

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Knoxville on September 16, 1863, and was confined until his death at Camp Douglas. He had received his A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1853. In the Wilson County Census of 1860, he was listed as a planter worth $26,500.[25] By December 6, 1865, W. C. and W. D. Rountree were administrators of his estate.[26] He had made his will in Wilson County on June 24, 1862: (1) sister Sarah B. Ruffin, land on Tosnot Swamp adjoining Warren Woodard, all money, notes, and residue; (2) sister Mary H. Fugitt, money from the sale of slave Amos (in Alabama) and of Sallie and Henderson who were to be returned to Wilson County; (3) sister Nina W. Ruffin, slaves Harriet and Crockett; (4) brother Dr. W. Haywood Ruffin of Miamook (?), six slaves; (5) brother and executor Thomas Ruffin, five slaves; (6) brother and executor Etheldred Ruffin, five slaves; (7) nephew Samuel Ruffin, Jr., of Mississippi [Negro Isaac the 2nd]; (8) niece Mary L. Ruffin, slave Crissy; and (9) brother and executor Samuel Ruffin.[27]

11. Pennina Watson "Nina" Ruffin was born on March 8, 1835. (To be included in a future issue of *Trees*.)

**Notes:**

1. *The Wilson Advance,* Wilson, North Carolina, issue of March 15, 1879. Also, *The Raleigh Register*, March 16, 1879, page 2, column 7.
2. *Alumni History of The University of North Carolina* (Durham, N. C., 1924), pp. 540 and 541 for the attendance of him and of his sons.
3. *North Carolina Government* (Raleigh, 1975), pp. 253, 255, 257.
4. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 00, p. 285.
5. Deed Book 00, p. 281.
6. Deed Book 17, p. 434.
7. Franklin County, Deed Book 19, p. 144.
8. Deed Book 21, p. 103.
9. Edgecomb County, Deed Book 19, p. 305
10. Deed Book 19, p. 306.
11. Deed Book 20, p. 79.
12. Deed Book 20, p. 278.
13. Deed Book 23, p. 45.
14. Idem 3, pp. 289, 290, and 817.
15. Edgecombe County, Deed Book 24, p. 36.
16. Franklin County, Deed Book 29, p. 55.
17. Deed Book 31, p. 161.
18. Franklin County, Wills & Inventories, 1848-1853, Vol. N, pp. 545-549.
19. Wills & Inventories, 1852-1857, Vol. P, pp. 269-289.
20. Idem, p. 275.
21. Record of Wills, 1868-1893, Vol. U, pp. 194-197.
22. No. 534, 531.
23. Wilson County, Will Book 1, p. 92.
24. *The Raleigh Register* February 5, 1851, page 3, column 4.
25. No. 542, 539.
26. Wilson County, Estates 1854-1919, C.R. 105.508.47, in The North Carolina Department of Archives.
27. Wilson County, Will Book 1, p. 122.

[Editor's note: Obedience Thomas Tartt married second to George Brownrigg. Her death, at about age 67, was reported in the Tarboro Press on February 1, 1840.]

# JOSEPH FARMER OBITUARY

## *Zion's Landmark,* June 15, 1892

**Contributed by J. Robert Boykin**

JOSEPH FARMER.

By request of the widow of our dear brother Joseph Farmer, I make the sincere attempt to write a notice of his death. Brother Farmer was born in 1827, in Edgecombe county, N. C. (now Wilson). He was raised by a good, pious old mother. His father died when he was young. His mother was a member of the old Toisnot church. Brother Farmer grew up to be a useful man, and was thought a great deal of by his neighbors with some few exceptions. Brother Farmer was a __ tempered man, but he was reasonable approached in the right manner; but he would not be driven. He was naturally a quick man, always in a hurry at his day's labors. He was married about forty years ago to Elizabeth Daniel, an industrious care taking woman, consequently they made a good living, and I suppose lived happily together. They never had children of their own, but raised two orphan children to be a gentleman and lady. Brother Farmer filled a good many places of trust. He was a constable in his young years, Justice of Peace a good many times; guardian for orphan children. He was __ to his settlements every time. Now I will try to say some better things. About the years of 1871 or 1872 he became greatly concerned about his salvation. He was a __ mourner, it appeared that he became more and more concerned, but still he tried to hide his feelings by staying at home and attending to his daily labors. I will here name one little circumstance. One Saturday the writer went through his field going to Contentnea to preaching. He was running off corn rows, wanting to go to preaching himself, but felt bound to do his work so he could plant his corn on Monday. About one o'clock the same day there fell as large a rain perhaps as I ever saw. Brother Farmer said he then saw a good chance to go to preaching. All the next week he said when he saw me passing it seemed to strike him with irresistible force. How was it that I could go to preaching and he had to stay at home and work, and both in about the same circumstances to live. He said he made up his mind that day to go to preaching when he had a mind to go, so he commenced to go to Contentnea. Saturday before the third __nday in April he went before the church at Contentnea, and was received and baptized on Sunday by Elder Thomas Wells, and was a useful member as long as he lived, always filling his seat. He said that he was not blessed for going to church, but blessed in going. He was chosen a Deacon of Contentnea church, and was ordained on the third Sunday in May, 1877 by Elders A. J. Moore and J. _. Scott, and made a faithful deacon, quick in business, always ready to give advice, a great hand to settle difficulties, he visited largely among the different churches. His house was a home for the weary traveler, particularly Baptists. It was a pleasure to visit that good old brother, but he is gone to enjoy that rest that remains to the people of God. … Brother Farmer was paralyzed the __ of last January. He was never able to speak to be understood anymore. He lived 36 hours, then went home to hear Christ say, … . He was a dear brother to me. He leaves a widow 64 years old. …

Theo. Barnes.

## ASSAULT ON LUCY SHOWELL

### Supreme Court Case #156½, State vs. Joseph Martin and Others, November 1819

**Contributed by Grace W. Turner**

State of North Carolina
Wayne County

Superior Court of Law
First Monday after the Fourth Monday of September 1819

Be it Remembered that heretofore towit on the First Monday after the Fourth Monday of March 1819 in the Superior Court held for the County of Wayne at the Court House in Waynesborough, An Indictment was found by the Grand Jury of Said County duly Sworn and charged (in the Following words towit

State of North Carolina
Wayne County

Superior Court of Law
the first Monday after the fourth Monday of March 1819.

The Jurors for the State upon their oaths present, that Joseph Martin, Thomas Durden, Joel Newsom Sen$^{r}$. Joel Newsom Jun$^{r}$. Isaac Newsom, Burrel Martin, Richard Sanders, Joseph Sanders and Zadock Peacock, all late of the County of Wayne together with divers other persons to the Juriors aforesaid as yet unknown, being rioters, Routers and disturbers of the Peace of the State, on the Ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight Hundred and Seventeen with force and arms, that is to Say with Sticks, Staves, and other offensive weapons at the County of Wayne aforesaid unlawfully riotously and routously, did assemble and gather to gether to disturb the peace of the State, and being So assembled and gathered to gether the dwelling house of one Lucy Showell, She the Said Lucy being in the peaceable possession thereof, then and there unlawfully riotously and Routously, did pull down remove, break and destroy, and other wrongs to the Said Lucy Showell, then and there did to her great damage and against the peace and dignity of the State

And the Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that the Said Joseph Martin, Thomas Durdin, Joel Newsom Sen$^{r}$. Joel Newsom Jun$^{r}$., Isaac Newsom Burrel Martin, Richard Sanders, Joseph Sanders & Zadock Peacock on the Said ninth day of April in the year aforesaid in the County of Wayne aforesaid in and upon one Lucy Showell in the peace of god and the State, then and there bring with force and arms did make an assault and [sic. on] the Said Lucy Showell then and there did beat wound and ill treat and other wrongs to the Said Lucy Showell then and there did to her great damage and against the Peace and dignity of the State

J R Donnell Solicitor

Indicted
a True Bill

E. Slocumb Foreman

And the Said, Joseph Martin, Thomas Durdin, Joel Newsom Sen$^{r}$. Joel Newsom Jun$^{r}$., Isaac Newsom, Burrel Martin, Richard Sanders, Joseph Sanders & Zadock Peacock having been brought into Court by a Writ of Copias executed by the Sheriff of Wayne County, At the present Term of the Superior Court of Said County the First Monday after the fourth Monday of September 1819, and then and there by their attorneys John Stanly and Mons Mordica Esquirs entered a plea of not guilty, whereupon the Following Jury of good and Lawfull men duly Sworn and charged, Towit, Daniel Kornegay Jesse Bass, Thomas Horn, James Carraway, Willis Garner, James Acock, James Cox, Robert Gurley, Stephen Coor, Richard Brent, Gabriel Sherrod and Hopton Coor was impaneled to Try the issues, and aligations Set forth in the Indictment, and the Said Jury of Good and Lawfull Men aforesaid returned their verdict to Said Court, and Say that the defendants are guilty of the Riot as charged in the Indictment, but not guilty of the Assault and Battery as charged in the Said Indictment

Wereupon the defendants moved for a new Tryal upon the ground of Misdirection of the Judge in the following Points –
1$^{st}$. That upon the first Count, The Judge Charged that evidence of taking down the Roof of the house in which Lucy Showell resided against her Consent Supported the Said Court, notwithstanding the husband of Said Lucy Showell was living: That the allegation in the indictment that it was the dwelling of the Said Lucy Showell was not ___, The Said Showell the Husband having gone from the State, leaving his Said wife Lucy behind residing in the house which he had occupied at his departure and having Since the commission of the acts charged in the Said Court returned to the State, but has not Since resided with his Said wife –
2$^{nd}$. That altho no evidence of a Right of Possession in Lucy Showell or her Husband, or any evidence of Personal violence or turning her out of possession was given, and evidence of the title to the Land was given in one of the defendents, they were guilty of a Riot in taking off the roof of the House

Which motion for a new Tryal being over ruled The Court passed the Following Sentence, That the defendant Joseph Martin be fined Forty Dollars and the other defendents Twenty Dollars each,

Where upon the defendants prayed an appeal to the Supreme Court of North Carolina, which was granted by one of Said

*(Continued on page 118)*

*(Lucy Showell, continued from page 93)*
defendents entering into Bond with Sufficcent Security in the Sum of one Hundred Pounds –

State of North Carolina
Wayne County
I Nicholson Washington Clerk of Wayne Superior Court do hereby Certify the foregoing to be a True and Correct Transcript and Statement of the Case
The State against Joseph Martin and others as taking from the Records and proceedings in Said Case in my office, Given under my hand and Seal of office the 26th day of October 1819.

N Washington Clk

[The following is transcribed from *North Carolina Reports, Vol. 7. Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged in the Supreme Court of North Carolina, During the Year 1819,* page 329]

TAYLOR, CHIEF-JUSTICE: The offense charged in the indictment is not a general riot, but a riot which consisted specifically in pulling down, removing, breaking, and destroying a dwelling house. So far it resembles *Queen v. Soley,* 2 Salk, 595; which was an information for a riot for taking from hinges, the door of a certain house called the Guildhall of the town of Bewdly. In that case the judgment was arrested, because it did not appear whose house it was; and calling it a Guildhall did not make it so. In the case before us, the house is laid as the dwelling house of one Lucy Showell, and as in her possession. It appears from the case, that Lucy Showell was, at the time of the riot, the wife of a man who was then out of the state, but who has since returned, though he does not reside with his wife. Now in the case of burglary, it is a well settled rule, that if a person inhabit a dwelling house, as the wife, guest, servant, or part of the family of another, it is in law the occupation of such other person, and must be so laid in the indictment. And this rule was strongly exemplified in Fane's case, Kelyng, 43, where it was holden, that if the house of a feme covert, who lives apart from her husband, be broken, though the husband had expressly refused to have anything to do with the lease, and the landlord made the agreement with the wife alone, yet it must be laid to be the house of the husband. There is no ground whatever on which to infer that the separate property of this house was in the wife, or that in point of law she had the exclusive possession of it. For whatever might have been alleged in favor of such a position, had the husband left the state under circumstances indicating an intention of not returning, yet in fact he has returned and the wife is consequently subject to the disabilitities of coverture. As the riot laid in the indictment is not distinguishable from a burglary, so far as it respects the description of the property or possession of the house, and as, according to the case in Salkeld, the proof must establish the allegation, there must be a new trial.

## BRYANT LITTLE AND LEWIS ELLIS TO WASHINGTON BARNES DEED
### Edgecombe County Deed Book 24, Page 643

This Indenture made and entered into this first day of June Eighteen hundred & forty eight between Bryan Little & Lewis Ellis of the first part and Washington Barnes all of the state of North Carolina and County of Edgecombe Witnesseth that I the said Bryan Little for and inconsideration of the sum of Eight hundred and seventy five dollars to me in hand paid I have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain & sell unto him the said Washington Barnes the receipt and payment whereof I hereby acknowledge myself fully satisfied and paid I have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain and Sell unto him the Said Washington Barnes the whole tract of land whereon I live containing one hundred and eleven acres be the same more or less Joining Lewis Ellis Rufus W Edmondson and lies immediately on the North side of Big Cotentnea Creek it being the whole tract whereon I live reference being had to the papers covering said land will more fully show possession to be given the first day of January next. And I the said Bryan Little do for myself my heirs and assigns and all other persons warrant and forever do find the title and bounds of the before described tract of land unto him the said Washington Barnes his heirs and assigns forever and I the said Lewis Ellis as trustee of the Said Little in consequence of the above sum being placed to the debts named in a deed of trust executed by the said Little to Lewis Ellis I do hereby release over to him the said Washington Barnes all the right and title which I have as trustee to the foregoing tract of land to him and his heirs and assigns forever In witness our hands & Seals the day and date above written signed sealed and delivered in presence of

Bryant Little

Witness
Wyatt Moye
Edwin Barnes

Lewis Ellis Trustee

Edgecombe County Court February Term 1849
The execution of the foregoing Deed of Sale is duly proven in open Court, by the oath of Edwin Barnes one of the Subscribing witnesses thereto and is ordered to be registered –

Test. Jno. Norfleet Clk

## OCTOBER 2007 WCGS MEETING

The Wilson County Genealogical Society met on October 30, 2007, at the Wilson County Public Library with Sue Powell, our president, calling the meeting to order and introducing the guests. The minutes were approved as printed in Trees, and a brief treasurer's report was submitted.

The book, *Founding Families of Wilson County*, was reported as completed and is now being proof read with it having been divided and assigned to various members. Guidelines were given to each proofreader. There has been a meeting with the publisher's representative, and a revised quote was given because of the two year time lapse and the 100 added pages since the original quote was made. The after publication price will be increased.

Wanda Taylor is working on the 2008 Calendar, and she anticipates that it will be ready to mail with the November Trees. There will be some additional copies available for purchase, so perhaps the members might think of using those for Christmas gifts.

Sue announced that she is working on the Trees 2006 index and hopes to have it ready to mail with the November Trees.

A fall membership special is now being offered. New members who join now will receive the remaining issue of Trees for 2007 (November) and all ten issues for 2008.

Officers and board members for 2008 were elected:

President---Wanda Taylor
Vice-President---Dick Roundtree
Secretary---Frances Roberson
Treasurer---Sue Powell
Board Member---Jerry Stancil, 3 year term
Phil Mooring, 1 year, to complete a vacated term

The new Officers will be installed at the annual meeting in November.

There was a sale for old calendars, *Wilson County 1870 Federal Census, Wilson County Cemeteries, Vol. III,* and *They Moved Away*. There are still some available at the reduced prices, so those who were not able to attend will have another opportunity at the next meeting. They are also available by mail order and at the library.

Dues for 2008 are being accepted with membership based on a calendar year. Members who have not renewed by the end of January may not receive any future issues of Trees until their dues are paid.

Announcements were made for the November Annual Meeting, which includes annual reports, installation of officers, Show and Tell, and a social time. Please bring family artifacts or historic items or the result of your research to share. Members are encouraged to bring something to add to the refreshment table.

A book signing and reception with Dr. William S. Powell, author of *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* will be on November 15, 5:30-7:00 p. m. at Hackney Library, Barton College.

Completing the business for the evening, Sue introduced Dr. Douglas Rader, an oceanographer, and the Principal Scientist of Oceans and Estuaries with Environmental Defense in Raleigh. He is also an archeologist, historian, and genealogist and has written several papers about his research.

Dr. Radar spoke about "Settlers in the Tuscaroran Void" which includes the area of the Contentnea Creek watershed which was the heartland of the Tuscarora Nation prior to 1715, including much of Wilson, Wayne and Green Counties. The Tuscarorans were in this area several hundred years before the English, and there is evidence of six main, known camps prior to the end of their war in 1715.

In his introduction, Dr. Rader, gave us information about the rivers of northeastern North Carolina that drain to the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds through the nearly parallel river basins of the Chowan, Roanoke, Tar-Pamlico and Neuse Rivers. "This order also reflects the order of colonization with most pioneers originating in southeastern Virginia or the initial coastal settlements."

The following forty years show colonists moving into the "Tuscaroarn void" and beginning to push towards the northern Piedmont from Virginia and into the area of the Piedmont from the Cape Fear Valley and South Carolina into the foothills of the mountains. From 1737-1745, there were many colonists moving into the Contentnea watershed and by 1750 plantation and pioneer farmsteads were plentiful with Lord Granville issuing numbers of land grants from 1748-1762.

Dr. Rader's notes related that this study is not the first attempt to sort out early inhabitants and landowners in the Contentnea area, and the following quote from the *Wilson County Heritage Book* reflects other attempts to sort this: "Often, the names of early settlers are determined from records of their ownership of land; however, all settlers were not landowners, and all landowners were not residents."

Dr. Rader has traced the land of his wife's family, the Peacocks, from that time period forward documenting the land grants and movement of the early settlers. He has numerous artifacts that he has found and documented from those early days. He related the importance of keeping and researching any and all artifacts as they can be so valuable in research into our past.

Our time for Dr. Rader was all too short as he was well informed and made a most interesting presentation of past history and of ways to facilitate the tracing of the early settlers from this region.

There was not enough time for all of the questions and interest generated by his program!

The meeting adjourned as it was time to close the library.

*Frances Roberson*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **New book at Wilson County Public Library**: *Following The Land, A Genealogical History of Some of the Parkers of Nansemond County, Virginia and Chowan/Hertford/Gates Counties, North Carolina 1604-2004*, by Raymond Parker Fouts

• **Correction**: The editor's note following the will of Warren Tomlinson on page 103 of the October 2007 issue of *Trees of Wilson* contains an error. Please make a correction to your copy.

Wilie Mercer, who married Elizabeth Tomlinson, was the son of Esther Pitt Mercer but not of John Mercer. Her sons Wiley and Henry were born after John Mercer died (estate sale May 1841). Wiley Bronson Mercer's birth date was recorded on his grave marker as April 5, 1844, death date December 23, 1922.

***Trees of Wilson***
Family Chronicles of the
**Wilson County Genealogical Society**
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| ___ Wilson County, North Carolina, Cemeteries Volume I | $30.00 |
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If the same name appears more than once on a given page, it will be listed in the index only once. Search the page for additional appearances of the same name.

Generally, names listed in the index will be as they appear on the page; however, some assumptions were made in obvious cases (such as "Sallie, wife of Jesse Smith" was indexed as Sallie Smith). Where maiden or previous surnames were given, they appear in the index in parenthesis. In addition, these women will be found indexed by their maiden and/or former surnames.

Be sure to look for variant spellings of the name which you seek.

Business and place names are included only if they contain a surname within their name.

The index does not contain names pertaining to current society business (such as membership roster, contributors, etc.) Every effort has been made to include just those names of genealogical/historical significance.

### *Trees of Wilson* Journal Back Issues

The first issue of *Trees of Wilson* was printed in February 1992. Beginning as a four-page document, it has grown to its present size of twelve pages. The early issues were printed in booklet style on 8½ x 11" paper. Beginning in 2000, the issues were printed in booklet style on 11 x 17" paper folded.

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